

Hafa Adai!

'Pacific voices being disrespected; process is not Pacific way' **PAGE 2**

Beth Pliscou expresses commitment to animal welfare. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

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Mawar on track to hit region



► Typhoon response team in place

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and the CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination Team, composed of government agencies and other organizations, attend a heavy weather briefing by the National Weather Service Guam at the Homeland Security and Emergency Management office.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A Typhoon Watch remains in effect for the Marianas as Tropical Storm Mawar continues its projected track toward the region in the next couple of days.

See **MAWAR** on Page 4

PSS cancels classes Monday, Tuesday; some graduation rites are postponed

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All CNMI Public School System classes today, Monday, and tomorrow, Tuesday, are canceled until further

notice due to the approaching Tropical Storm Mawar, which is expected to swirl into the CNMI region within a couple of days. Typhoon Condition III is currently hoisted over the CNMI.

The class cancellations include Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Intervention programs.

Graduation ceremonies that were scheduled for to-

See **PSS** on Page 4

PUBLIC NOTICES

United flights will operate as scheduled today

United Airlines flights will operate as scheduled today, May 22, 2023, and the United City Ticket Office will be open from 9am to 5pm. United customers who are scheduled to depart on May 23 and May 24 are encouraged to check

See **UNITED** on Page 4



From left, the four Academic Achievement Awards went to Alexander Donovan Aldan Tudela, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management; Lou Kristine Baylon Cruz, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration Accounting Emphasis; Annel Louise Pulido Ligaya, Bachelor of Science in Education Early Childhood Education Concentration; and Dino Rafael Taitano Jr., Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education Concentration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Northern Marianas College Class of 2023 graduates are seen during their ceremony at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Friday.

LEIGH GASES

NMC confers 265 degrees on Class of 2023

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College conferred 265 degrees and certificates to the graduating

Class of 2023 last Friday in a jam-packed Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Four graduating students received Excellence in Service and Leadership awards, four received Academic Achievement awards, 11 graduated

summa cum laude, 53 graduated magna cum laude, and 64 graduated cum laude.

The Excellence in Service

See **NMC** on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

131

INSIDE



LOCAL
Lt. Raymond Cerrato takes command of U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140).

PAGE 6



BUSINESS
Docomo Pacific donates over \$80,000 worth of security cameras to the Department of Public Safety.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE
Harrison Ford is retiring Indiana Jones, saying goodbye to the iconic swashbuckling archeologist.

PAGE 15



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2 NMI sons graduate from medical school

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Bringing pride to their families and island, two home-grown medical students have graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa commencement last May 13, 2023, and during the John A. Burns School of Medicine convocation the next day, on Mother's Day.

Medical students Richard Aldan and Joshua Mostales



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI's homegrown Joshua Mostales, left, and Richard Aldan graduate from the University of Hawaii at Manoa last week Sunday earning their doctorate from the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

both received their degrees last weekend and are starting their residency in general surgery.

Mostales acknowledged that the journey to becoming a physician has not been easy.

"Getting into medical school required a lot of hard work and dedication, balancing academics with extracurricular activities like research, clinical volunteering, and job shadowing doctors. As the first person in my family to become a physician, I had to work extra harder to navigate the process," he said.

Mostales was born and raised in a mixed Chamorro-Filipino household on Saipan, before moving to Portland, Oregon, where he went to high school and college. He remembers attending Calvary Christian Academy, Dandan Elementary School, and Grace Christian Academy.

Interestingly, Mostales said, Aldan also attended GCA at the same time he did. "Richard Aldan and I were at GCA together for a couple years (2nd-3rd grade) before I transferred to another school. But since we were in different classes, we didn't really know each other back then. I only knew him as the boy in the other class with very long hair (it's definitely not as long as it used to be). We actually didn't know we both got into the same med school until our first day at JABSOM. That was when we formally met. He found out I was also from Saipan, approached me, and introduced himself and stated that he was also from Saipan. Since then, we have remained very close friends," he said.

When considering his future career paths, Mostales said he was attracted to the field of medicine due to its constantly changing and intellectually engaging nature. "However,

what drew me most to this career was the opportunity to make a direct and positive impact on the lives of those who are at their most vulnerable. I specifically decided to pursue surgery because of the collaborative approach to patient care and the personal satisfaction of using my hands to help people recover and heal after surgical procedures."

Mostales was accepted to medical school right away, soon after earning his bachelor's degree in Biochemistry at the University of Oregon.

"... I'm grateful for the support of my family and the generous financial resources provided by the University of Hawaii. I'm proud of my accomplishments so far and excited for the next chapter of my life. Like Richard, I'm starting my residency in general surgery. My hope for the future is to continue learning and growing as a surgeon and to make a difference in the lives of my patients."

Mostales would like to further specialize in surgical oncology or bariatric/minimally invasive surgery, "although I'm still keeping an open mind. I would eventually like to return to Hawaii to practice and also provide surgical care to the people of Saipan, even if it's only a couple times a year."

If he could encourage young people in the CNMI, he'd tell them to not be afraid to dream big. "It's feels surreal to come from a small island and achieve something as big as become a doctor. I'm so proud to represent my island and community, and I hope to inspire others to pursue their dreams," he said.

He also credits his family for their unwavering love and support, as well as his teachers and mentors and "to the island community that raised me."

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Better Together

'Pacific voices being disrespected; process is not Pacific way'



By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Majority of those who attended the first of scoping meetings being held in the CNMI to solicit comments about a plan to expand the Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Sanctuary voiced opposition to the plan, saying not only is the expansion plan a unilateral move by the federal government but is also disrespectful of Pacific voices.

A majority of the commenters, both online and present at the scoping meeting at the American Memorial Park's indoor theater in Garapan last Thursday evening, said they wished to maintain fishing rights in the area and limit increasing military and federal takeover of the Pacific Ocean.

The meeting was presided over by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as part of a required rule to solicit public comments on the proposed Pacific Remote Island National Marine Sanctuary, which will create a 770,000-square-mile marine sanctuary in the Pacific. The area is 2,000 miles away from the Marianas. After an overview of the proposal and process goals and objectives of the sanctuary, NOAA opened the meeting for comments.

Although there were several who were in favor of the sanctuaries, majority opposed the plan. Many of the commenters that night pointed out that the sanctuary proposal is not just a unilateral proposal from President Joe Biden, but the process in which NOAA was going about with such public hearings in the past and present has left them feeling disrespected, not just because of the abrupt timing for and in such commentaries, but the way they felt their voice, and voices of neighboring islands were not being heard.

"I've come to so many of these meetings and it just feels so meaningless for us. When you guys leave, it's like, 'so what's [going to] happen now? Are we going to have something to live with?' You're talking about generations to come. ...Are they going to go through

the same thing? Are they going to live in worry that someone somewhere is going to call D.C. and say, 'Hey man, you know, let's do this because it's great for the world, it's great for the environment,' but you never come to talk to us before you do that. ...I was just reading the process of this PRI. It started with a letter from a governor in Hawaii and was supported by some mayor, and some letter came out from PRI to Biden and now we're here. It just doesn't make sense. And that's not the Pacific Island way. The Pacific Island way is we talk to each other before we get out of the circle

of the Pacific Islands. ...Let's talk to each other. ...It's just disconcerting and disingenuous as Pacific Islanders," said lawyer Rosemond Sword.

Another commenter, J.D. Tenorio told NOAA: "We need to make sure that you give the people more time and more respect."

Online commenter Christine Igisomar said, "I believe choosing these largely uninhabited islands is testing the waters...[thereby] allowing this process, if successful, to reach other places that are inhabited by native Pacific Islanders such as myself."

Frances Sablan said, "There are extreme comments as to the process and everything that is happening but, as a retired educator, as an ocean elder, I am appreciative of the process. Yes, the timing is short and sometimes it is improv, but it is a process. It is being done. And all we need to

do now is make the best of it."

"I deeply appreciate all of you for taking the time, I think it's been a real wake up call, going to Guam and then coming here. ...We're going to take this home, we are going to process it, and think about what we can do next," said Brady Phillips, NOAA (Pacific Region) Protected Area Policy Division policy specialist, before concluding the meeting.

The hearing on Saipan is the fourth of seven scoping meetings in the U.S.-Pacific Islands hosted by NOAA, with meetings on Rota and Tinian taking place

last weekend. After a public commentary stage, which began on April 18, 2023, and ending on June 2, 2023, NOAA will continue to hold online and in-person public meetings before moving on to the next stages in the process, where a draft sanctuary proposal will be composed, before making a final draft that will be sent to the state and Congress for review and final designation.

To submit a comment online go to regulations.gov and use docket number NOAA-NOS-2023-0052. Deadline for comments is June 2, 2023.

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AMIDST UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF SAIPAN CARES FOR ANIMALS

Beth Pliscou expresses commitment to animal welfare

Beth Pliscou, the founder and executive director of Saipan Cares for Animals, wants to assure the community that her dedication to helping people care for their animals remains unwavering, despite the uncertain future of the organization.

Pliscou is currently off island re-

ceiving needed medical treatment, and while she is off-island, a minority bloc of SCA board members have closed the clinic.

While the future of Saipan Cares for Animals may be in doubt, Pliscou said she wants to emphasize her ongoing dedication to supporting indi-

viduals in caring for their pets is the same as ever. She has not given up.

"I am saddened by the recent decisions made regarding Saipan Cares for Animals. However, my commitment to helping people care for their animals remains steadfast," said Pliscou. "Despite the uncertainty sur-



Beth Pliscou, founder and executive director of Saipan Cares for Animals. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

rounding the organization, I will continue to explore alternative avenues and options to provide assistance and support to those in need."

Recognizing the temporary closure of Saipan Cares for Animals, Pliscou encourages individuals requiring animal care services to reach out to Saipan Humane Society.

Pliscou extends her deepest gratitude to the community for their unwavering support over the years. (PR)

NMC

From Page 1

Award for the Associate Degree programs went to Jaden Deleon Guerrero Villacrusis, who earned an Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management; the Excellence in Service Award for the Baccalaureate Degree went to Shannon Tudela Sasamoto, who obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

The recipient of the Excellence in Leadership Award for the Associate Degree was Jefferson Sanchez Cunanan, who obtained an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts, Education Emphasis. The recipient of the Excellence in Leadership Award for the Baccalaureate Degree was Tania Peters David, who obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

The four Academic Achievement Awards went to Lou Kristine Baylon Cruz, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration Accounting Emphasis; Dino Rafael Taitano Jr., Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education Concentration; Annel Louise Pulido Ligaya, Bachelor of Science in Education Early Childhood Education Concentration; and Alexander Donovan Aldan Tudela, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management.

In his address, NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said that college enrollment declined around the world during the pandemic, but not at NMC. "Our enrollment continues to climb. Our graduation rates continue to improve."

He praised the testimonies of some graduates and what they went

through to get their degrees. "These graduates and their stories are just a small sample of the many stories that affirm the value of education. And yes today, we celebrate the outcome that is their diplomas, but we also honor how much they have invested in those diplomas."

The event's keynote speaker, former lawmaker Christina-Marie "Tina" E. Sablan, who is currently the senior policy advisor for the Office of the Governor, thanked the Class of 2023 for choosing her to deliver the keynote. "In all my interactions with you, I've come away energized, feeling hopeful, that the future of these islands and the future of this planet is in good hands," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

UNITED

From Page 1

united.com or the United app for the most current flight information as a result of Tropical Storm Mawar. (PR)

Flood watch in effect

A flood watch is in effect from Monday afternoon through Thursday afternoon. Flash flooding caused by excessive rainfall is possible in the Marianas from Monday afternoon through Thursday afternoon.*

Excessive runoff may result in flooding of rivers, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Streams may rise out of their banks. Flooding may occur in poor drainage and urban areas. Extensive street flooding and flooding of creeks and rivers are possible.

Tropical Storm Mawar continues to approach the Marianas. As the storm gets closer, showers are expected to increase significantly. Latest model guidance shows rainfall potential in excess of 15 inches, with locally heavier amounts possible. This would result in extensive flooding across the islands.

Residents are advised to monitor later forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings. Those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop. If living near streams and rivers, prepare to move items away from stream and river banks. Make sure storm drains nearby are not clogged, especially in low-lying areas. (PR)

High surf and rip current warning

A high surf advisory is in effect from 3pm Monday to 3pm Thursday. The public is also being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents from Monday afternoon through Thursday afternoon.*

Large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet are building as Tropical Storm Mawar approaches the region. Dangerous rip currents are expected on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

These factors will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

This is the beginning of very dangerous surf conditions as Mawar approaches the Marianas. The public is advised to stay out of the water. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and

call or wave for help. (PR)

Public warned vs sailing in small vessels

A small craft advisory in effect from 3pm Monday to 3pm Thursday.*

East winds of 15 to 25 knots, with gusts of up to 35 knots, will be increasing to 20 to 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots Tuesday morning. Seas of 8 to 11 feet will be building to 9 to 14 feet Tuesday morning.

A typhoon watch is in effect from 1pm Monday. Typhoon conditions, including winds of 64 knots or more, are possible within the next 48 hours.

For the small craft advisory, conditions will be hazardous to small craft. It is in effect from 3pm Monday to 3pm Thursday.

Latest model guidance shows tropical storm force winds of 34 to 63 knots as early as Tuesday morning. Tropical Storm Mawar continues to strengthen and slowly track toward the Marianas. Conditions will start to deteriorate Monday afternoon. This will result in conditions becoming hazardous for small craft Monday afternoon. Typhoon force winds are possible, so continue to monitor the latest forecasts.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid boating in these hazardous conditions. (PR)

MCS will have classes today

Based on the official announcement that the CNMI remains at Typhoon Condition III from the Office of the Governor at 5pm, on Sunday, May 21, 2023, Mount Carmel School has determined it will continue with classes today, May 22, 2023. However, as it states in the school's handbook, "If the governor declares "Condition 2" for a typhoon/tropical storm, all classes will be canceled. If "Condition 2" is announced while school is in session, the following procedures shall be observed:

1. Students shall be dismissed as soon as their transportation arrives.
2. Students should help the teacher move everything away from the windows and into the middle of the room.
3. Books and other instructional materials must be secured in the classrooms or be put into the lockers neatly.
4. Students will return to school when the President of the school announces it.

Official information from Mount Carmel School will be made available through the following mediums.

* Data based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point.

PSS

From Page 1

day, tomorrow, and Wednesday, are also being postponed, according to PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada in an official memorandum yesterday afternoon.

Despite the class cancellations, all PSS school and Central Office employees, except 190-day contracted employees, must still report to work today, Monday, May 22, 2023, the memo said further.

The new PSS graduation schedule are as follows:

■ Thursday, May 25 at 9am is Dan Dan Middle School promotion; 4pm is Da'Ok Academy graduation.

■ Friday, May 26, at 9am is the Hopwood Middle School promotion; 4pm is Saipan Southern High

School graduation.

■ Saturday, May 27, is Tinian Sr. High School graduation at 4pm.

■ Tuesday, May 30, at 9am is the Tanapag Middle School promotion.

■ Wednesday, May 31, at 9am is Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School promotion and at 4pm is Dr. Rita H. Inos Sr. High School graduation.

■ Friday, June 2, at 9am is Francisco M. Sablan Middle School promotion; 4pm is Marianas High School graduation.

■ Monday, June 5, at 9am is Cha-Cha Ocean View Middle School promotion; at 4pm is Kagman High School graduation.

■ Tuesday, June 6, at 1pm is Tinian Sr. High School graduation.

In his memorandum, Ada said: "We understand that you and your family may be feeling worried or anxious due to the anticipated weath-

er forecasts, and we thank you for your patience as we gather the most accurate and up-to-date information to help us make informed decisions. On Saturday, May 20, 2023, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declared Typhoon Condition III for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. As of today, May 21, 2023, there are no changes to the declared condition. However, we are monitoring the weather closely and are in constant communication with the appropriate government agencies."

"We will continue to provide timely updates as the situation arises. We encourage everyone to stay calm, safe, and protected during this time. For the most accurate information on the weather, please refer to official notices from the Office of the Governor and Homeland Security and Emergency Management," Ada said.

Government preparations

The CNMI administration met with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management team and the CNMI multi-agency coordination team last Friday morning in preparation for incoming Tropical Storm Mawar.

Last Friday morning, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang met with HSEM special assistant Franklin R. Babauta and members of the CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination team, which is composed of government agencies and other organizations that will serve as frontliners once Tropical Storm Mawar hits the Marianas this week.

The group met for a heavy weather briefing provided by the National Weather Service in Guam.

In a press conference following the briefing, Babauta said it was important to bring all government and non-government agencies together to form one coordination team to effi-

ciently disseminate information, and also to efficiently provide services should the community need them during the storm and after.

Some of the things discussed during the briefing, said Babauta, were shifts should people be stationed at the HSEM headquarters during the storm, resources available like shelters, and transportation should members of the community need assistance during the storm.

Babauta also shared the importance of efficiently disseminating information at this time, with schools across the CNMI preparing for graduation ceremonies this week.

"We also understand that this week is going to be busy with the school graduations, and we wanted to make sure that we disseminate information efficiently for planning," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MAWAR

From Page 1

Typhoon Condition III has been hoisted over Saipan, Tinian, and Rota since Saturday. This means damaging winds of 39 miles per hour or more are possible today, Monday, and typhoon force winds of 74 mph or greater are possible Monday night through Wednesday.

As of 6pm last night, the center of Tropical Storm Mawar was moving north at 8 mph and is expected to make a slight turn toward the north-northwest with little change in forward speed over the next 24 hours. Maximum sustained winds remain at 60 mph.

Mawar, a name that was contributed by Malaysia and means a rose, is forecast to intensify the next few days, possibly becoming a typhoon later today. It began in the region of the Federated States of Micronesia.

COTA denies owing IT&E \$65,750; works with DOF on 'oversight'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority clarified last week that it may owe IT&E for communication services, but not the \$65,750 that was earlier reported.

Alfreda Camacho Maratita, who is the special assistant for Public Transportation under the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, said that COTA's monthly recur-

ring charges range between \$2,000 and \$3,000. She said these charges include WiFi services, landlines, cell-phones, and GPS tracking system on all transit fleet.

The Department of Finance's listing of 70 accounts from several federal programs that owe IT&E for telecommunication services shows that COTA account has the highest balance, \$65,750, and is over 120 days aging.

Maratita said that, as of

4:30pm Thursday last week, COTA has already submitted its current billings to Finance for payment processing.

Maratita said COTA, under the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, is currently working closely with Finance and IT&E to resolve this oversight.

"I would like to assure our community members who utilize COTA's transit services that our phone lines are in service and should not be impacted," she said.

System migration maintenance for CUC's electric pre-pay customers

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. alerted its prepaid customers last Friday that its electric meter provider would be doing systems maintenance starting Saturday until Monday and urged them to top up their accounts to ensure that they will have power through the weekend.

In an advisory Friday, CUC said it has been informed by its electric meter provider that the meter system will be down for two days beginning at 11am on May 20, to 12pm

today, May 22, 2023.

Electric pre-pay customers who wished to “reconnect” their electric services were advised to add funds to their PayGo account to restore electric services before the system went offline last Saturday. The system will be unable to reconnect services during this period. The meter system will be restored no later than 12pm today, May 22, 2023.

Contact CUC Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. **(CUC)**


Water service outage for Dandan TSA

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, for the Dandan Tank Service Area, from 8am to 5pm, affecting parts of Dandan; Holiday Dr., Independence Lp., Natibu Pl., and Lower Dandan.

This is to intended to permanently cut, cap and abandon the old 4-inch distribution line connected to the 8-inch PVC transmission line


that will be abandoned under the Isley Booster-2 transmission and Booster Pump Project at the intersection of Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road and Flame Tree Road.

Customers in the area indicated will experience low to no water pressure during these hours. Allow one to two hours after for water to pressurize back into the main line. **(PR)**



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The Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is inviting qualified and experienced contractors specializing in airport security systems to submit sealed proposal, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for the preventive maintenance services and repairs of the Authority access control, video monitoring, and gate operator at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The RFP Package is available beginning May 15, 2023, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$100.00 payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". **Payment shall be by cash, certified cashier's check, postal money order, or credit card.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

RFP Issued Date	May 15, 2023
Pre-proposal Meeting	June 02, 2023 (10:00 A.M.)
Deadline for Questions and/or Clarification	June 05, 2023
Deadline for RFP submission	June 13, 2023 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their proposals sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs to Access Control, Video Monitoring, and Gate Operator at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-RFP-010-23". Proposals must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, June 13, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

EDWARD B MENDIOLA

Deputy Executive Director

Date

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This project was supported by Grant #150VC-21-GG-0058-ASSI-Acct#FG26040074, awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the FY 2022 OVC VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program, Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice, sub-granted by the CNMI CJPA Supervisory Council. The Assistant Attorney General Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, and Violence Against Women Office. Point of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice or the CNMI CJPA Supervisory Council.



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New commanding officer at helm of *Oliver Henry*

SANTA RITA, Guam—Lt. Raymond Cerrato took command of U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) from Lt. Freddy Hofschneider in a change of command ceremony at Victor Pier in Apra Harbor, Guam last Friday, May 19, 2023.

Capt. Nicholas Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam, presided over the ceremony and was joined by many local officials and dignitaries, including Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, commander of Joint Region Marianas and representatives of both the Guam and CNMI legislatures.

A native of Tinian in the CNMI, Hofschneider earned his commission from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2013. His first assignment was as a deck watch officer aboard USCGC Assateague (WPB 1337), homeported in Guam, from 2013-2014. Subsequent afloat assignments include serving aboard USCGC James (WMSL 754), USCGC *Vigilant* (WMEC 617), and as the commanding

officer aboard USCGC *Maui* (WPB 1304) in Bahrain.

His next role will be as a program reviewer at the Office of Budget and Programs (CG-821) at U.S. Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Cerrato, on the other hand, earned his commission from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2019. A native of Melbourne, Florida, his first assignment was as a deck watch officer aboard USCGC *Mohawk* (WMEC 913), homeported in Key West, from 2019-2021. Subsequent afloat assignments include serving as the assistant operations officer aboard USCGC Stone (WMSL 758), homeported in North Charleston from 2021-2023, and temporarily aboard USS *Frank E. Petersen Jr.* (DDG 121), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 2022.

Under the command of Hofschneider, the *Oliver Henry* crew operated in a 1.9 million-square-mile area of responsibility, sailing over 23,000 nautical miles and visiting partner nations.

During this time, the *Oli-*

ver Henry crew conducted the following:

- 13 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and bilateral boardings supporting Operation Rematau;

- 28 recreational and commercial boating safety boardings;

- Three search and rescue cases;

- Two expeditionary patrols supporting the Forum Fisheries

Association Operations Island Chief and Rai Balang;

- 22 port visits and six anchored visits—the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Australia

Operation Rematau, nested under Operation Blue Pacific, is a U.S. Coast Guard operation that supports Pacific Island Nation and territories' sovereignty and protects vital migratory fish



U.S. COAST GUARD /CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Lt. Raymond Cerrato and Lt. Freddy Hofschneider stand for a photo following a change of command ceremony for USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) at Victor Pier in Apra Harbor, Guam, on May 19, 2023.



U.S. COAST GUARD /CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Lt. Freddy Hofschneider stands for a photo with the delegation from the CNMI Legislature and other members from Tinian following the presentation of a proclamation in Hofschneider's honor during a change of command ceremony for USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) at Victor Pier in Apra Harbor, Guam, on May 19, 2023.

stocks from illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing. As part of this effort, the crew delivered over 6,000 lbs of donations to communities in Yap State and participated in over 50 underway and shoreside engagements with local and international partners.

These initiatives aim to strengthen maritime governance and security in the Pacific Rim, a critical corridor for global commerce and geopolitical stability. They align with the long-term vision of Pacific Island Forum leaders and embody the U.S. commitment to advancing Pacific regionalism and ensuring security, safety, sovereignty, and prosperity.

The *Oliver Henry* is the 40th 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter named for Oliver T. Henry, Jr., an enlisted African American Coast Guard member first to break the color barrier of a then-segregated Service.

It homeports in Guam, working with U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, which comprises nearly 300 personnel to provide a significant portion of the U.S. Coast Guard's enduring regional presence in Oceania. (*U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam*)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Prayer to St. Rita

O Holy Patroness of those in need, St. Rita, whose pleadings before thy Divine Lord are almost irresistible, who for thy lavishness in granting favors has been called the Advocate of the Hopeless and even of the Impossible; St. Rita, so humble, so pure, so mortified, so patient and of such compassionate love for thy Crucified Jesus that thou couldst obtain from Him whatsoever thou askest, on account of which all confidently have recourse to thee, expecting, if not always relief, at least comfort; be propitious to our petition, showing thy power with God on behalf of thy suppliant; be lavish to us, as thou hast been in so many wonderful cases, for the greater glory of God, for the spreading of thine own devotion, and for the consolation of those who trust in thee. We promise, if our petition is granted, to glorify thee by making known thy favor, to bless and sing thy praises forever. Relying then upon thy merits and power before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray thee that (*here mention your request*).

Feast Day: May 22

Patron Saint of: Hopeless cases, victims of abuse and widows.



ST. RITA Wife, Mother, Widow, Nun

St. Rita was born in Umbria, Italy, about the year 1386, and died at Cascia, in the year 1456. Being the daughter of parents who were advanced in years, she met with much opposition when she let it be known of her intention of becoming a nun. Yielding to her parents' desires, she married a cruel man. After converting him from his wicked ways, he was murdered by criminals. Left alone in the world, she applied several times for admissions into the Augustinian convent in Cascia.

Every application was refused, and God Himself cleared away all obstacles and she entered the convent, made her profession and lived the life of a holy and devout religious for forty-two years, "a shining example of every Christian virtue, pure as a lily, simple as a dove, and obedient as an angel." That "God is wonderful in His saints" is easily proven in the life of St. Rita.

On one occasion Rita requested a rose to be brought to her from her garden at Porena in the middle of winter. The rose was found in full bloom. At another time, she asked for a fig, and the same was found.

The reports of these wonders spread far and wide and people flocked to the convent from all parts of the world, only to receive in return for their faith in God through the prayers of Rita many spiritual and earthly favors. Because of the great number of miracles made possible by St. Rita, she is often called "The Saint of the Impossible."

Task force created to probe white collar crimes, gov't corruption

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORT

A task force has been created to focus on investigating white collar crimes, government corruption, consumer protection, and financial crimes.

Edward Cabrera, who is the chief investigator for the Investigative Division of the Office of Public Auditor, disclosed that the task force was created with the signing of a memorandum of agreement that involves OPA, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Public Safety.

Cabrera talked briefly about the task force's formation in his comments on House Bill 23-44 during a meeting by the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

"Our goal is to alleviate concerns about unbridled corruption by establishing this task force," he said during the meeting's public comments portion in the House chamber.

House Bill 23-44 seeks to improve criminal investigations by the OPA of fraud, waste and abuse in the collection and expenditure of public funds.

JGO Committee chair Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) is the author of the bill. The committee passed H.B. 23-44 in the form of House Substitute 1.

House legal counsel John Bradley said the substitute essentially responds to the comments of the OPA and to the recent actions of the OAG, OPA, and DPS.

In OPA's comments before the passage of the bill, Ca-

brera said he understands that there's a substitute bill and that they hope they be given an opportunity to review and make comments on the new substitute bill. He, however, said they still would like to present their response to the original bill, that while the intentions behind the legislation may seem positive, it neglects a crucial aspect of their current protocols.

Cabrera said their system involves meticulous maintenance and monitoring of cases through investigations and referral of cases to the OAG when necessary.

He said the bill's requirement for OPA to provide statistics directly to the OAG undermines their autonomy as they are independent entity established under the Constitution.

The chief investigator said assessing case statistics is easily achievable through the OPA website, rendering the proposed legislation unnecessary as there is no existing problem to address.

He said there is also no need to modify the Commonwealth Code that deals with referrals of action.

Cabrera said the current law has resulted in the OPA's successful prosecution of a former governor and former attorney general.

"It is crucial to uphold transparency and prevent any perception of favoritism by ensuring that the governor remains within this specific category," he pointed out.

The chief investigator said fighting corruption is a complex challenge and it requires the enactment of appropriate laws. He said legislators must prioritize



Flores

creating comprehensive laws that define offenses and mandates substantial penalties proportional to the seriousness of public corruption.

"Corruption is a disease that demands such action," said Cabrera, adding that this will enable OPA and the OAG to take necessary actions against corruption-related offenses.

He said the current laws are either absent or inadequate in

holding corrupt individuals responsible for their wrongdoing and do not effectively discourage such misconduct.

Cabrera said observing corruption within the CNMI government is concerning, especially when top officials are implicated.

He said as part of a team committed to rooting out corruption, legal restrictions that obstruct their investigative efforts are disheartening.

The chief investigator said the absence of accountability for government officials enables unethical and corrupt practices to persist.

He said legislators must take firm measures by passing laws that hold accountable those who facilitate, promote or engage in corrupt conduct.

Rather than focusing on a specific bill like H. B. 23-44, Cabrera said it is more advantageous to tackle the root causes of public corruption and enhance laws that can effectively combat it. Therefore, he said, it is unlikely that H. B. 23-44 will make significant progress in investigating, prosecuting, or reducing government corruption.

"Enacting legislation that only partially addresses corruption, or at worse, fails to

address it all, is unhelpful and creates needless bureaucratic obstacles," Cabrera said.

He said to effectively combat widespread corruption in the government, comprehensive anti-corruption laws are urgently needed and the CNMI needs to demonstrate unwavering political determination by enacting strong anti-corruption laws, providing adequate funding to independent agencies responsible for investigating and prosecuting corrupt activities, and enforcing laws that hold public officials accountable for their actions.

LEGAL NOTICE

IF YOU, A CHILD IN YOUR CARE, OR ANOTHER LOVED ONE WERE HARMED BY ENDO OR A RELATED COMPANY, INCLUDING PAR OR AMS, OR THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING OPIOIDS, RANITIDINE, OR TRANSVAGINAL MESH, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY DEADLINES IN THE ENDO BANKRUPTCY.

The deadline to file a claim in the bankruptcy is July 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time).

The deadline to object to Endo's sale is July 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time).

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On August 16, 2022, Endo International plc and certain of its affiliates filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. Certain Endo affiliates manufactured and/or sold, among other things, branded opioid medications (including but not limited to OPANA® (oxymorphone hydrochloride), OPANA® ER (oxymorphone hydrochloride extended release), and PERCOCET® (oxycodone and acetaminophen tablets)), generic opioid medications, generic ranitidine medications, and transvaginal mesh. **This notice is intended to inform you of your rights in this bankruptcy regarding the bar date and proof of claim process and Endo's proposed sale of substantially all of its assets.**

WHAT IS A CLAIM?

A "claim" means a right to seek payment or other compensation. If you, a child in your care, or another loved one were harmed by Endo or a related company, including Par or American Medical Systems (AMS), or their products, including opioids, ranitidine, or transvaginal mesh, you may have a claim against one or more of these entities. To make a claim, you will need to submit a proof of claim in the bankruptcy case. You may file a claim on behalf of yourself, a child in your care (including a child exposed to opioids in the womb), or a deceased or disabled relative. Examples of claims that may be filed in the Endo bankruptcy include but are not limited to:

- > **Opioid Claims:** Claims for death, addiction or dependence, lost wages, loss of consortium, or neonatal abstinence syndrome (sometimes referred to as "NAS"), among others.
- > **Ranitidine claims:** Claims for cancer, including bladder, esophageal, pancreatic, stomach, and liver cancer, among others.
- > **Transvaginal mesh claims:** Claims for pelvic pain, infection, bleeding, among others.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BAR DATE AND PROOF OF CLAIM PROCESS?

The deadline to submit your proof of claim is called a bar date. The bar date, or the deadline to submit your proof of claim, is July 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time). If you do not submit a proof of claim by the deadline, you will lose any rights you may have had to seek payment or compensation. You must file a proof of claim form so that it is actually received by the bar date. A proof of claim form can be filed by you, a legal guardian, survivors, or relatives of people who have died or are disabled. You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you.

For a more complete list of relevant companies and products manufactured and/or sold by Endo and its related companies, including full prescribing information and BOXED WARNINGS for OPANA® (oxymorphone hydrochloride), OPANA® ER (oxymorphone hydrochloride extended release), and PERCOCET® (oxycodone and acetaminophen tablets), and for more complete details about the bar date and instructions on how to file a confidential personal injury claim, visit EndoClaims.com or call 877.542.1878 (Toll-Free) or 929.284.1688 (International).

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SALE?

Endo intends to sell substantially all of its assets in an auction and sale process in the bankruptcy case and subject to approval by the bankruptcy court. **Endo is seeking relief that the sale will be free and clear of all claims, liens, and encumbrances.**

If you disagree with the proposed sale, you must object to the sale in writing, so that your objection is received on or before **July 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time).** **Any party in interest who fails to properly file and serve its objection by the objection deadline may lose its claim against Endo's assets if the sale is approved.** Objections not filed and served properly may not be considered by the bankruptcy court.

Complete details about the proposed sale, including any auction for Endo's assets, the date of the hearing to consider the sale, and instructions on how to file an objection, are available at EndoClaims.com or by calling 877.542.1878 (Toll-Free) or 929.284.1688 (International).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CALL: 877.542.1878 (Toll-Free)
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EMAIL: EndoInquiries@ra.kroll.com

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO: CPA-RFP-011-23

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 07, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANTS RENTAL,
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THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA), 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING WORKING WORKS BEGINNING MAY 08, 2023.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE IN WRITING AND ADDRESS TO THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EITHER BY FACSIMILE AT 234-5962 OR EMAIL: edmendiola@cnmiports.com NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M., MAY 29, 2023.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CPA. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CPA.

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Deputy Executive Director

Date:

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Immigration can help solve the nursing shortage

The US nursing workforce is shedding workers. About 100,000 nurses quit or retired during the pandemic, while another 800,000 have signaled an "intent to leave" by 2027. And yet, the country is failing to tap an available group of qualified health-care workers: immigrants. While there's no single fix for the US's nursing shortage, a more efficient system to bring in foreign-trained professionals would go a long way toward easing it.

Immigrants comprise about 16% of registered nurses and have been a crucial part of the health-care workforce for decades. Even so, the US lacks a dedicated pathway for foreign-trained nurses to work in the country. Most come through the employment-based immigration system, which is capped at 140,000 green cards per year for all applicants and their family members. Of that number, roughly 40,000 are allocated to "skilled workers, professionals and other workers," a category that includes nurses. Because most of those green cards are awarded to workers already in the country, only 10,000 to 12,000 visas are available each year for new foreign-trained nurses.

That's insufficient to meet America's health-care needs. Roughly 60% of the population has a chronic disease and a fifth will be above the age of 65 by 2030. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the US will need to fill more than 200,000 vacancies for RNs each year, on average, through 2031. Far from allowing more nurses to come to the US, however, the government is making it even harder. Last month, the State Department said it would delay visa processing amid surging demand, leaving thousands of nurses in limbo.

For years, lawmakers have resisted efforts to expand the pipeline of skilled foreign workers, partly out of fear that increased immigration will drive down wages and compromise working conditions. Such concerns are understandable but are ultimately self-defeating. Severe nursing shortages during the pandemic pushed hospitals toward contract nurses and sent costs soaring. Higher immigration could help restore some balance while benefitting the economy more broadly.

In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, lawmakers should pursue targeted steps to bring in more foreign nurses. One bipartisan pandemic-era proposal in Congress should be revived. It aimed to "recapture" unused employment-based visas for doctors and nurses from years past and give them priority for green-card processing—which would yield 15,000 additional visas for doctors and 25,000 for nurses. As a one-time visa allotment, it would have only a limited impact on the domestic labor market, while reinforcing a depleted workforce. It's an example of compromise that's eluded the immigration debate for more than three decades.

Another option is tapping foreign-trained nurses already in the US. More than 115,000 immigrants with undergraduate degrees in nursing are working below their skill level, many as low-paid assistants, home health aides and domestic help. In September, Congress passed a law requiring the Labor Department to study barriers to employment for immigrants with foreign credentials and to issue recommendations for reform. These should include streamlined re-credentialing, grants to

See IMMIGRATION on Page 9



Please don't hide Trump's faults

Journalism used to be about getting the truth out there, but recently we were told it shouldn't happen if Americans could be swayed the wrong way by seeing and hearing it. Bunches of journalists themselves were upset by a live, CNN, 70-minute, New Hampshire town hall session in which a skilled, smart questioner, Kaitlan Collins, interviewed former President Donald Trump, a semi-comedic bully.

He had a great time, was full of life, good-humored, funny and occasionally likable even if he was dishonest and crude at times and inexcusably attacked a self-proclaimed sex victim. He was joyfully promoting himself as the next president while a partisan crowd laughed and cheered. Journalistically speaking, there was nothing wrong with this nationwide offering.

It's the job of journalism, after all, to get the truth out there, and here it was, self-revelation as if in a stunningly written Broadway drama, no curtains to worry about. All kinds of journalists who obviously despise Trump were nevertheless shocked and disturbed, as if the auditorium cheerleaders were an example of a seduced TV audience and Trump's worn-out blather had never been heard before.

I myself would bet there were people out there screaming at their TV sets and others simply taking note in a politically mixed, adult, nationwide audience without need of protection. Didn't these journalistic detractors see Collins asking Trump tough questions and futilely challenging him to the extent of his saying, "You are a nasty person."?

On PBS News Hour, we heard from Mark Lukasiewicz, a journalism professor and former producer of news shows of NBC and ABC. He said CNN gave Trump a platform on which to lie, practice misogyny, mislead and obfuscate while trying "to railroad the moderator." That's not something news outlets should allow, he said, explaining that there was a better way of proceeding, namely to have had still more tough questions with putdowns of the answers and to have taped the show and then removed all the bad Trump stuff before running the tape.

Admitting he hardly had all the answers, Lukasiewicz said he thought "journalism does have a responsibility to democracy. We exist in a liberal democracy, because of the rules and the understandings and the norms of a liberal democracy."

Yes, we journalists are mostly here to serve democracy, meaning the people. They are sovereign and should have the opportunity to see the bald truth play itself out and make judgments they are capable of making without journalistic opinion always intervening. Fact-checking is terrific to the extent that's

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



what it actually is, and the media were soon filled with assessments of Trump's lack of town hall truthfulness.

What I think is really going on here with Lukasiewicz and so many others is that they are scared to death about Trump being elected president again and think that, for all his grotesqueries, his performance could trick bunches into voting for him. They think people will buy his lies and some also hate Trump's smile and his not being locked up.

In the first paragraph of a front-page story, The New York Times summed up the Trumpian political platform more or less pronounced in the town hall meeting, saying he "suggested the United States should default on its debts for the first time in history, injected doubt as to the country's commitment to defending Ukraine from Russia's invasion, dangled pardons for most of the Capitol rioters convicted of crimes, and refused to say whether he would abide by the results of the next presidential election."

While none of that is new, it's a pretty good look at the guy even though none of the above were absolute affirmations of his positions. It would be a disaster to default on the debt, of course, and I am for our backing Ukraine in the war, although Trump is hardly alone in wanting to stop the killing with some kind of peace agreement. The thing is, he should abide by the results of the next election even if Joe Biden beats him again. One of the most disgusting things about him is his obsession with the 2020 election not going his way and saying it was a fraud.

As for sticking Trump in an inaccessible basement somewhere, remember that Biden won in 2020 by hiding out in a basement. I don't want Trump to be our next president any more than I want Biden, but I believe public education is to some degree lost by wrongly refashioning journalism to hide national threats instead of exposing them.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Can today's AI truly learn on its own? Not likely

One of the boldest, most breathless claims being made about artificial intelligence tools is that they have “emergent properties”—impressive abilities gained by these programs that they were supposedly never trained to possess. “60 Minutes,” for example, reported credulously that a Google program taught itself to speak Bengali, while the New York Times misleadingly defined “emergent behavior” in AI as language models gaining “unexpected or unintended abilities” such as writing computer code.

This misappropriation of the term “emergent” by AI researchers and boosters deploys language from biology and physics to imply that these programs are uncovering new scientific principles adjacent to basic questions about consciousness—that AIs are showing signs of life. However, as computational linguistics expert Emily Bender has pointed out, we’ve been giving AI too much credit since at least the 1960s. A new study from Stanford researchers suggests that “sparks” of intelligence in supposedly “emergent” systems are in fact mirages.

If anything, these far-fetched claims look like a marketing maneuver—one at odds with the definition of “emergence” used in science for decades. The term captures one of the most thrilling phenomena in nature: complex, unpredictable behaviors emerging from simple natural laws. Far removed from this classic definition, current AIs display behaviors more appropriately characterized as “knowledge sausage”: complex, vaguely acceptable computer outputs that predictably arise from even more complex, industrial-scale inputs.

The language model training process used for AI takes gigantic troves of data scraped indiscriminately from the internet, pushes that data repeatedly through artificial neural networks, some containing 175 billion individual parameters, and adjusts the networks’ settings to more closely fit the data. The process involves what the chief executive of OpenAI has called an “eye-watering” amount of computations. In the end, this immense enterprise arrives not at an unexplained spark of consciousness but a compressed kielbasa of information. It is the industrial production of a knowledge sausage, which crams together so much data that its ability to spit out a million possible outputs becomes relatively quotidian.

Contrast this with examples of actual emergence, such as fluid flow, which has been described for two centuries by an elegant expression known as the Navier-Stokes equations. Shorter than a haiku, these equations somehow characterize a stupendous range

of natural phenomena, from steam rising from a coffee mug to the turbulent vortices of weather systems hundreds of miles wide. None of this is obvious from inspecting the equations. Yet they spontaneously give rise to beautiful, interlocking systems of complex whorls.

In my more than two decades researching computational methods for harnessing these equations (and translating some of my findings into algorithms that appeared in “Avatar” and “Iron Man 3,” winning me an Academy Award), I’ve seen this beauty and complexity emerge repeatedly. It’s far removed from the workings of today’s AI.

Additional examples of emergent behavior in physics and biology include four-line descriptions of water and ice that suddenly give rise to intricate snowflake patterns (the subject of my PhD dissertation). Another is the reaction-diffusion systems discovered by Alan Turing, the same British scientist who developed the infamous “Turing test” to gauge whether AIs are indistinguishable from humans. He found simple systems of equations describing chemical interactions that spontaneously organize into the spots of a leopard or stripes of a zebra.

When recognizable biological structures spring forth from primordial chemical baths, it points toward a better understanding of one of humanity’s most basic questions: How did life begin? Scientists have been enchanted for centuries whenever such simple mechanisms produce such complex phenomena, understandably treating them with near-religious awe. When magic emerges from a haiku-like equation or primordial ooze, we get to witness something rise up from practically nothing. With OpenAI’s ChatGPT and Google’s Bard, we’re seeing an industrial product rising up from a factory complex.

Just as with real-life sausage, the components that make up ChatGPT are obscured over the course of its production. But that doesn’t mean they defy explanation, especially by manufacturers. After the “60 Minutes” broadcast, Margaret Mitchell, an AI ethics researcher Google fired two years ago, pointed out that Google’s program could speak Bengali because it was almost certainly shown Bengali while being trained and used pieces of a previous model that already knew the language. The suggestion that it acquired this skill ex nihilo strains credulity.

The “emergent” claims of AI writing computer code have equally mundane explanations: There are massive amounts of code on the internet. When shown the contents of the internet over and over, the AI learns both written and

By THEODORE KIM

Los Angeles Times

Theodore Kim is an associate professor of computer science at Yale University. @_TheodoreKim



programmed languages.

Downplaying such mundane provenances feeds the notion that AIs must somehow be magical. As digital humanities scholar Lauren Klein explained in a recent talk, this narrative that code is magic and its creators akin to wizards stretches back to the 1950s. Programmers considered themselves “members of a priesthood guarding skills and mysteries far too complex for ordinary mortals.” Today, with coding skills being taught on college campuses around the world, this illusion has become harder to maintain. AI is being spun into the fabric that clothes the new priesthood.

Claiming that complex outputs arising from even more complex inputs is “emergent behavior” is like finding a severed finger in a hot dog and claiming the hot dog factory has learned to create fingers. Modern AI chatbots are not magical artifacts without precedent in human history. They are not producing something out of nothing. They do not reveal insights into the laws that govern human consciousness and our physical universe. They are industrial-scale knowledge sausages.

IMMIGRATION

From Page 8

grants to support test preparation for licensing exams, and more efficient pathways for immigrants to pursue advanced degrees.

At a time of unprecedented demand on the US health-care system, keeping qualified foreign-trained nurses out of the workforce is shortsighted. Smarter immigration policy can get health workers where they’re needed.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Saipan student earns Doctor of Pharmacy degree

As of May 16, 2023, I am honored to introduce myself as Dr. Minori Yoshida. It’s an incredibly rewarding and humbling journey to complete higher education, and to do so thousands of miles away from family and Saipan.

After graduating from Saipan International School, I was privileged with the opportunity to attend Barnard College at Columbia University on a full-tuition scholarship for all four years. During undergrad, I worked two-three part-time jobs, completed a senior research thesis, graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in Neuroscience and was accepted into the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University. Continuing into my doctoral training years, I continued to work one-two part-time jobs, gained leadership experience through student organizations, interned at various companies, and graduated magna cum laude with a doctorate in Pharmacy.

As I move on in my career as a healthcare consultant and health-systems pharmacist, I encourage you all to be patient and to never stop fighting for what you want. Always welcome people into your life, but don’t let them sway you because you are the master of your own destiny. And if the going gets tough, you can always reach out to me because trust me, I understand how hard it can be but if I made it, so can you!

Minori Yoshida, PharmD
via email

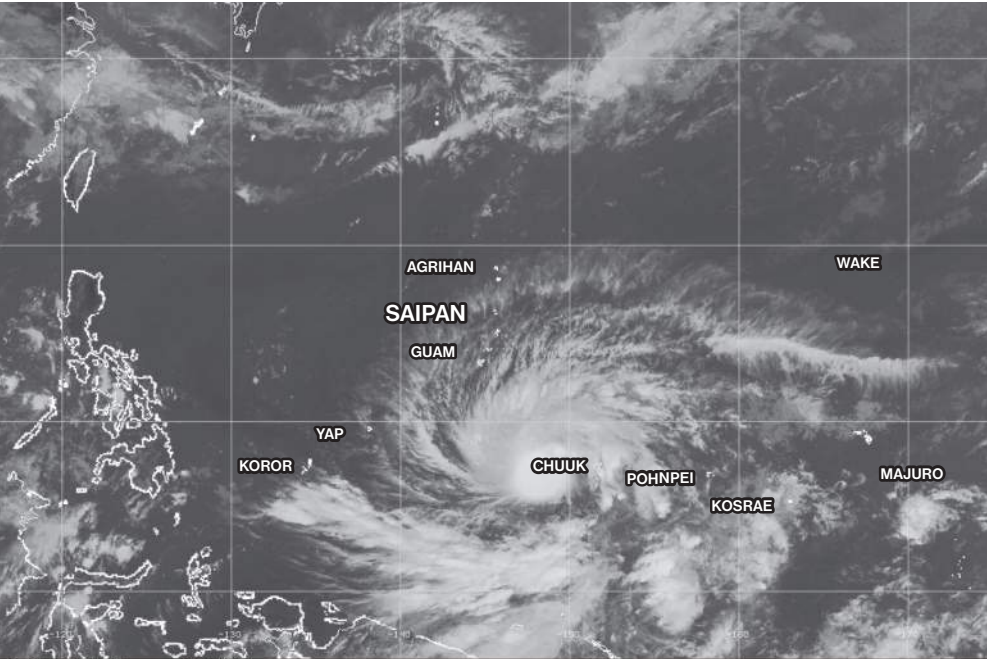


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Minori Yoshida, PharmD, graduated magna cum laude with a doctorate in Pharmacy last May 16, 2023, from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Scattered showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 7am.		Showers and possibly a thunderstorm		Showers. Cloudy		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	
86°	79°	86°	79°	85°	79°	87°	79°	86°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:05 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies and moderate trade winds prevail over the Marianas this morning. Buoy reports indicated combined seas of 4 to 5 ft.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:34 AM	9:08 PM	-
Tuesday	8:27 AM	10:00 PM	-
Wednesday	9:21 AM	10:48 PM	-
Thursday	10:14 AM	11:32 PM	-
Friday	11:05 AM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Thundershowers	62° / 54°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	85° / 58°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°	
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 49°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	74° / 60°	
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	91° / 82°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 49°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	77° / 60°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 63°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 55°	
Busan	Cloudy	70° / 57°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	76° / 56°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 67°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Seoul	Cloudy	82° / 55°	
Tokyo	Rain	80° / 60°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	80° / 58°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:44 AM	Low Tide	1.42	
8:02 AM	High Tide	1.88	
3:39 PM	Low Tide	-0.17	
11:08 PM	High Tide	1.93	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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DPL

Department of Public Lands

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 244 E 01, containing an area of approximately 2,000 square meters, situated in Sadog Tasi, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective Lessee is 153 Corporation. The list of officers for 153 Corporation: Young Ok Park, as President/ Treasurer/ Secretary and Incha Yunl Park, as Vice President.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of 153 Corporation, mainly Young Ok Park.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a restaurant establishment.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at [www.dpl.gov.mp](#)

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Sadog Tasi, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 29, 2023, at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannānā'i nutisia guini put i intension-fiha para u ma'atčila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariānas. Maseha hāyi na pattidā intrisao gi halum hinirāt pupbliku siña muna'hālum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimonium kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Komu mapribeni más mo'na ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisissita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 244 E 01 ni kunsissiti kási 2,000 square meters, ni gaigi gi hālum Sadog Tási, iya Saipan. I mapa ina'a'annuk i páttn i lugát managuaha gi ufisanan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website i [www.dpl.gov.mp](#) para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee i 153 Corporation. I listan nu ufisiát siha para i 153 Corporation: Young Ok Park, komu Presidenti/Tresáriu/Sekritáriu yan si Incha Yunl Park, komu Sigundu Presidenti.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattitiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ginen i ufisiát yan direktot nu i 153 Corporation, mayotmenti si Young Ok Park.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugát put atyu ha' na rason i fondasió guma' fañochuyan.

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntrátan atkilon sa' bentsingku (25) áñus na tiempo.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' sákkan gi durántin i teman kuntráta mapega gi put sientus i bálin "appraised fair market" i propiedát yan i aplikáppli na put sientus nu Business Gross Receipts gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kuntrátan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisanan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, giya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan nu i PM Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lókkui' na u managuaha online gi [www.dpl.gov.mp](#)

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku táya marisibi ni háfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atčila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Sadog Tási, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritáriun Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tiniği' upiñon, infotmasion, testimonium kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisáo na pattida siha gi pat ántis di Mayu 29, 2023 gi ufisanan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONG REEL PWOMMWOL LÁÁLÁYIL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Táilil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelił Faluweer Toulap re isiisiwow arongorong me mángemángil rebwe atkilaay faluweer toulap iye e frat Ilól Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falúw kka Efáng Ilól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel rebwe isiisilong ischil kkapas, "data", "views" ngäre ángingi reel liiwelił ppwommwol faluweer toulap. Eyoor maas sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwirtiw ebwe akktatéwov.

i. Ppwommwol atkilóónol faluweer toulap iye e bwááló bwe Lot 244 E 01, e lo bwe 2,000 reel square meters, iye e lo Sadog Tasi, Seipél. Eyoor pappidił falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelił Faluweer Toulap ngäre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Ppwommwol schóól atkilóón nge 153 Corporation. List-al officer ngáli 153 Corporation: Young Ok Park, bwe Presidente/Treasurer/Sekkretório me Incha Yunl Park, bwe Vice President.

iii. Ppwommwol atkilóón nge e angúungú fengál me mwógutughutúł DPL me e abwungubwung sángi officers me director-il 153 Corporation, espesiatmente Young Ok Park.

iv. Schóól atkilóón ebwe yáyáá falúw ngáli ghatchúl me mwógutughutúł ayooral "restaurant".


Ppwommwol abwungubwungúł atkilóón nge ngáli ruweigh me limoow (25) ráagh.

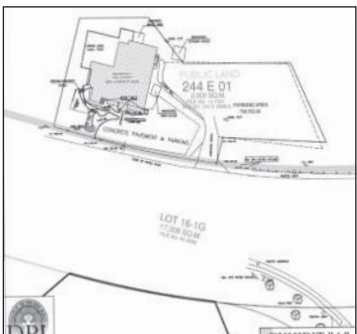
Ppwommwol atkilóónol atol abwungubwungul atkilóón nge e lo reel "percentage of the appraised fair market value" reel bwughos fengál me "application percentage of Business Gross Receipts" Ilól aar mwógutughutul DPL.

v. Eyoor pappidił abwungubwungúł atkilóón yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelił Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipét; 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngäre 1st floor me PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoar pappidił mille online me [www.dpl.gov.mp](#)

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelił Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwommw ngáli atkilóónol faluweer toulap iye e lo Sadog Tasi, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóriyol Bwulasiyol Ammwelił Faluweer Toulap emmwelił rebwe bweibwogh ischil kkapas, views, angiingi ngäre ppwommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóół ngäre mmwalił Moozo 29, 2023, me Bwulasiyol Ammwelił Faluweer Toulap ikka e lo wóół Seipél, Luuta ngäre Tchiliyól.





Business

Docomo donates over \$80K worth of security cameras to local police



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Docomo Pacific brand manager Brent Deleon Guerrero, Docomo Pacific chief legal officer James Hofman, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clement Bermudes, Docomo Pacific general manager Pauline Johnson, DPS resident director Eugenio Villagomez, and Docomo Pacific Business Sales manager Joseph Torres.

Docomo Pacific has donated over \$80,000 worth of security cameras to the CNMI Department of Public Safety.

The donation to the CNMI's first responders caps off Public Safety Awareness Month, when community revitalization is in full swing. As the government and private sector work together to find ways to enhance the overall island experience for locals and tourists alike, this cutting-edge technology will optimize public safety and crime prevention.

"This donation builds on

our continued commitment to the CNMI. Through collaborative public/private effort, we can lessen the burden of first responders, provide improved response times and most importantly minimize the danger for both the first responder and our people. A true commitment to service by working Better Together," said Docomo Pacific CNMI general manager Pauline Johnson.

DPS will use the security cameras in strategic locations to help deter crime and to add an extra layer of security for the local community. DPS'

commitment to serve and provide protection against life-threatening incidents and community disruption will be aided with more visibility when every second counts.

"This generous donation from our community partner, Docomo Pacific, will enhance our capacity to detect and identify criminal violators across our islands. We are committed to the safety and security of our communities. And we appreciate Docomo Pacific's support to law enforcement!" said DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes. (PR)

Biden aims to reassure world on US debt standoff

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—President Joe Biden tried to reassure world leaders on Saturday that the United States would not default as he consulted with the heads of Australia, Japan and India in a meeting of the so-called Quad partnership that had been hastily rescheduled because of the debt limit standoff back in Washington.

Hoping to avert an outcome that would rattle the global economy and prove to be a boon to Beijing, Biden opened his third day in Japan at the annual Group of Seven meeting of the world's most powerful democracies with a briefing from his staff on the latest fits and starts in talks over how to raise the federal debt limit.

The president also squeezed in meetings aimed at challenging China's buildout across the Indo-Pacific. The Quad members originally had planned to meet in Sydney next week, but got together instead on the

sidelines of the G7 so Biden could return to Washington earlier on Sunday in hopes of finalizing a deal to increase the U.S. borrowing limit before the government runs out of cash to pay its bills.

Biden said he felt there was headway in the talks with GOP lawmakers.

"The first meetings weren't all that progressive, the second ones were, the third one was," he said before a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. "And then, what happens is the carriers go back to the principals and say, 'This is what we're thinking about.' And then people put down new claims. I still believe we'll be able to avoid a default and we'll get something decent done."

In a sign of a renewed bargaining session in Washington, food was brought to the negotiating room at the U.S. Capitol on Saturday morning,

only to be carted away hours later. No meeting was likely Saturday, according to a person familiar with the state of the talks who was not authorized to publicly discuss the situation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The shortened trip has reinforced a fundamental tension shaping Biden's presidency: As he has worked to signal to the world that the U.S. is reclaiming the mantle of global leadership, at key moments, domestic dramas keep getting in the way.

Until Saturday, Biden had largely stayed out of the public eye at the summit, forgoing big public statements and leaving Friday's leader dinner early. He has been spending time instead by a video monitor in a room next to his hotel suite, where aides in Washington have been keeping him apprised of the back-and-forth of debt limit talks.

Nation

Uvalde families dig in for new test of gun industry protections

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—After Mayah Zamora was shot and wounded at Robb Elementary School, her family did what many mass shooting survivors do: They sued.

They sued the store off Main Street in Uvalde, Texas, that sold the teenage gunman his AR-style rifle. They sued the gun maker. And they sued police who waited 77 minutes outside Mayah's fourth-grade classroom before stopping the shooting that killed 19 children and two teachers.

"Mainly what we are looking for is some sort of justice," said Christina Zamora, Mayah's mother.

As the grim frequency of gun violence continues, both the U.S. government and gun manufacturers have reached large settlements in recent years following some of the nation's worst mass shootings. In April, the Justice Department announced a \$144 million settlement with relatives and families of a 2017 Texas church attack, which was carried out by a former U.S. airman with a criminal history.

The lawsuits, relatives and victims of mass shootings say, are an effort to get accountability and prevent more attacks — by forcing reforms, hurting the gun industry's

bottom line and strengthening background checks after lapses failed to stop gunmen from buying weapons.

But despite two high-profile settlements in the last year involving gun manufacturers, and Democrat-led states rolling back some industry protections, not only do high hurdles remain for lawsuits to succeed, but in some places the hurdles are growing taller.

On May 11, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signed a new law that further shields gun manufacturers from lawsuits, weeks after a shooter at a Nashville school killed six people.

It comes as attorneys say the narrow path for victims to bring lawsuits has begun to widen, including for families in Uvalde, who on Wednesday will mark the one year since the most deadly school shooting in Texas history.

"I think there are more opportunities for accountability than maybe there were five to 10 years ago," said Eric Tirschwell, executive director for Everytown for Gun Safety, which for years has brought lawsuits against the gun industry and is also involved in the Uvalde case.

The track record for lawsuits following mass shoot-

ings is mixed. The gun industry remains largely protected from liability under a federal law, known as the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, though it does not completely exempt or immunize gun manufacturers from lawsuits.

Over the last decade, courts have tossed numerous lawsuits, many of which did not target the gun industry but instead brought negligence claims against the government or the places where the attacks took place. In 2020, the casino company MGM Resorts International and its insurers agreed to an \$800 million settlement over a shooting on the Las Vegas Strip that killed 58 people and injured hundreds more.

Last year, the maker of the rifle used in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary shooting settled with families for \$73 million over a lawsuit that accused Remington of targeting younger, at-risk males in marketing. In Tennessee, the GOP sponsor of the state's new law waved to what happened in Connecticut in defending the need to further shield the industry: "Few companies can survive a \$73 million settlement," state Rep. Monty Fritts said in February.

Police officer charged with lying about leaks to Proud Boys leader

A Washington, D.C. police officer was arrested Friday on charges that he lied about leaking confidential information to Proud Boys extremist group leader Enrique Tarrio and obstructed an investigation after group members destroyed a Black Lives Matter banner in the nation's capital.

An indictment alleges that Metropolitan Police Department Lt. Shane Lamond, 47, of Stafford, Virginia, warned Tarrio, then national chairman of the far-right group, that law enforcement had an arrest warrant for him related to the banner's destruction.

Tarrio was arrested in Washington two days before Proud Boys members joined the mob in storming the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Earlier this month, Tarrio and three other leaders were convicted of seditious conspiracy charges for what prosecutors said was a plot to keep then-President Donald Trump in the White House after he lost

the 2020 election.

A federal grand jury in Washington indicted Lamond on one count of obstruction of justice and three counts of making false statements. A magistrate judge ordered Lamond's release from custody after he pleaded not guilty to the charges during his initial court appearance Friday.

The indictment accuses Lamond of lying to and misleading federal investigators when they questioned him in June 2021 about his contacts with Tarrio. The indictment also says Tarrio provided Lamond with information about the Jan. 6 attack.

"Looks like the feds are locking people up for rioting at the Capitol. I hope none of your guys were among them," Lamond told Tarrio in a Telegram message two days after the siege.

"So far from what I'm seeing and hearing we're good," Tarrio replied.

"Great to hear," Lamond wrote. "Of course I can't say

it officially, but personally I support you all and don't want to see your group's name and reputation dragged through the mud."

Lamond was placed on administrative leave by the police force in February 2022.

Lamond, who supervised the intelligence branch of the police department's Homeland Security Bureau, was responsible for monitoring groups like the Proud Boys when they came to Washington.

Lamond declined to comment. His attorney, Mark Schamel, released a statement Friday saying, "Lt. Lamond is a decorated officer whose position required contact with extremist groups who sought to undermine our democracy on January 6th, yet he does not, nor has he ever, supported their views."

Schamel added that "the jury will see the fallacy of these unfairly levied allegations when the evidence is presented."

Asia

G7 urges China to pressure Russia to end war in Ukraine

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—The Group of Seven wealthy democracies united in urging China to pressure its strategic partner Russia to end its war on Ukraine and resolve territorial disputes peacefully, and China lashed back.

In a joint statement, the G7 leaders emphasized they did not want to harm China and were seeking “constructive and stable relations” with Beijing, “recognizing the importance of engaging candidly with and expressing our concerns directly to China.”

“We call on China to press Russia to stop its military aggression, and immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw its troops from Ukraine,” said the statement Saturday. “We encourage China to support a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on territorial integrity and the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter,” including in direct talks with Ukraine.

Cooperation with China is needed given its global role and economic size, the group said, in appealing for working together on challenges such as climate change, biodiversity, debts and financing needs of vulnerable

countries, global health concerns and economic stability.

But the leaders expressed “serious concern” about the situation in the East and South China seas, where Beijing has been expanding its military presence and threatening to use force to exert its control over self-governed Taiwan. They called for a “peaceful resolution” of China’s claim to Taiwan, which has remained unresolved since the communists gained power on the Chinese mainland in 1949.

The statement said there was “no legal basis for China’s expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea, and we oppose China’s militarization activities in the region.”

“A growing China that plays by international rules would be of global interest,” the statement said, alluding to charges that Beijing is undermining the “rules-based international order.”

The G7 also united in voicing concerns about human rights in China, including in Tibet, in Hong Kong and in the far western region of Xinjiang, where the issue of forced labor is a perennial issue.

But the statement also

sought to counter accusations that the G7 is seeking to prevent China’s rise as a global power.

“Our policy approaches are not designed to harm China nor do we seek to thwart China’s economic progress and development,” it said. The statement highlighted a consensus that efforts to diversify manufacturing supply chains and ensure stable access to strategically vital minerals and other resources is not aimed at unraveling trade ties with the world’s second-largest economy.

“We are not decoupling or turning inwards,” the statement said. “At the same time, we recognize that economic resilience requires de-risking and diversifying. We will take steps, individually and collectively, to invest in our own economic vibrancy. We will reduce excessive dependencies in our critical supply chains.”

At the same time, the G7 members vowed to take a stand against various types of “economic coercion,” saying they “will counter malign practices, such as illegitimate technology transfer or data disclosure,” while also avoiding “unduly limiting trade and investment.”

wanted in recent violence during anti-government protests by his supporters. Khan, who is facing about 100 legal cases against him, also appeared before a court in his hometown of Lahore to seek protection from arrest in multiple terrorism cases that authorities have raised against the country’s top opposition leader. He also condemned days of violence in which his supporters attacked public property and military installations after he was dragged out of a courtroom and arrested in a graft case in the capital, Islamabad, last week. At least 10 people were killed in clashes between his supporters and police across the country.

Indonesian IT minister arrested for alleged corruption in procurement

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian authorities on Wednesday arrested the information technology minister as part of an investigation into a million-dollar corruption scandal linked to the construction of mobile phone transmission towers in remote regions. Communication and Information Technology Minister Johnny G. Plate was arrested after showing up for questioning at the Attorney General’s Office, said Kuntadi, the director of investigation at the prosecutor’s office. If he is formally charged, it may further tarnish President Joko Widodo’s credibility when it comes to fighting corruption. Four other members of Widodo’s Cabinet have been sentenced to prison terms in corruption cases, casting a shadow over his efforts to clean up government while he looks for a successor when his term ends in 2024.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US inks modest trade deal with Taiwan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States has reached a modest trade agreement with Taiwan, signaling Washington’s support for the island democracy as it comes under increasing pressure from China. The first agreement under the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade is expected to set the stage for a bigger deal later — “a robust and high-standard trade agreement,” U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said. The initiative announced Thursday will, among other things, cut red tape at customs and reduce waiting times for U.S. businesses bringing products to Taiwan. It also commits the U.S. and Taiwan to adopting measures to combat bribery and other forms of corruption and to encouraging more trade involving small- and medium-sized businesses. The agreement does not require approval from the U.S. Congress. But there is broad bipartisan support in Washington for Taiwan, an island of 23 million that split from China when the communists took over the mainland in 1949 and has since developed into a prosperous democracy. Beijing considers Taiwan a renegade Chinese province and has long demanded that it reunify.

Pakistan’s Imran Khan dials down campaign of defiance

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Imran Khan dialed down his campaign of defiance on Friday, saying he would allow a police search of his home over allegations that he was harboring suspects

World

Russia: Wagner private army, Russian troops seize Bakhmut

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia’s defense ministry said early Sunday that forces of the Wagner private army, with the support of Russian troops, seized the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut.

The ministry statement on the Telegram channel came about eight hours after a similar claim by Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin. Ukrainian authorities at that time said fighting for Bakhmut was continuing.

The eight-month battle for the city in eastern Ukraine is the longest and probably most bloody of the conflict in Ukraine.

Using the city’s Soviet-era name, the Russian ministry said, “In the Artyomovsk tactical direction, the assault teams of the Wagner private military company with the support of artillery and aviation of the southern battle group has completed the liberation of the city of Artyomovsk.”

There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials about the latest claim.

Russian state news agencies cited the Kremlin’s press service as saying President Vladimir Putin “congratulates the Wagner assault detachments, as well as all servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces units, who provided them with the necessary support and flank protection, on the



AP

Ukrainian soldiers fire a cannon near Bakhmut, an eastern city where fierce battles against Russian forces have been taking place, in the Donetsk region, Ukraine, May 15, 2023.

completion of the operation to liberate Artyomovsk.”

In a video posted earlier on Telegram, Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin said the city came under complete Russian control at about midday Saturday. He spoke flanked by about a half dozen fighters, with ruined buildings in the background and explosions heard in the distance.

After the video appeared, Serhiy Cherevatyi, spokesman for Ukraine’s eastern command, told The Associated Press that Prigozhin’s claim “is not true. Our units are fighting in Bakhmut.” In a statement on Facebook, the Ukrainian General Staff said that “heavy battles for the city of Bakhmut do not stop.”

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said that “this is not the first time

Prigozhin has said ‘we seized everything and are dominating’.” He suggested that the Wagner chief’s statement was aimed at drawing attention away from Zelenskyy’s recent highly visible trips overseas, including to the Group of Seven summit in Japan on Saturday.

Fighting has raged in and around Bakhmut for more than eight months.

Russian forces will still face the massive task of seizing the remaining part of the Donetsk region still under Ukrainian control, including several heavily fortified areas.

It is not clear which side has paid a higher price in the battle for Bakhmut. Both Russia and Ukraine have endured losses believed to be in the thousands, though neither has disclosed casualty numbers.

At least 9 dead in stampede at soccer stadium in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—At least nine people were killed and dozens more injured when stampeding soccer fans pushed through one of the access gates at a quarterfinal match in the Salvadoran league Saturday.

The National Civil Police said in a preliminary report via Twitter that nine dead were confirmed at the match between clubs Alianza and FAS at Monumental stadium in Cuscatlan, which is about 25 miles (41 kilometers) northeast of the capital.

At least two of the injured transported to hospitals were in critical condition, police said.

Carlos Fuentes, spokesman for the first aid group Rescue Commandos, also confirmed the deaths.

“We can confirm nine dead—seven men and two

women—and we attended to more than 500 people, and more than 100 were transported to hospitals, some of them were serious,” Fuentes said.

Play was suspended about 16 minutes into the match, when fans in the stands waving frantically began getting the attention of those on the field and carrying the injured out of a tunnel and down to the pitch.

Local television transmitted live images of the aftermath of the stampede by Alianza fans. Dozens made it onto the field where they received medical treatment. Fans who escaped the crush stood on the field furiously waving shirts attempting to review people lying on the grass barely moving.

Pedro Hernández, president of El Salvador soccer’s first division, said the

preliminary information he had was that the stampede occurred because fans managed to push through a gate into the stadium.

“It was an avalanche of fans who overran the gate. Some were still under the metal in the tunnel. Others managed to make it to the stands and then to the field and were smothered,” an unidentified volunteer with the Rescue Commandos first aid group told journalists.

National Civil Police Commissioner Mauricio Ariza Chicas, at the scene of the tragedy, said there would be a criminal investigation in conjunction with the Attorney General’s Office.

“We are going to investigate from the ticket sales, the entries into the stadium, but especially the southern zone,” where, he said, the gate was pushed open.

Health & Wellness

CONSUMER HEALTH: What is mental health?

By LAUREL KELLY
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, which makes this a good time to learn about mental health and mental illness. Mental health is the overall wellness of how you think, regulate your feelings and behave. Cultural norms and social expectations play a role in defining mental health. There is no standard measure across cultures to determine whether a behavior is normal or when it becomes disruptive. What might be normal in one society may be a cause for concern in another.

Mental illness refers to a wide range of mental health conditions—disorders that affect your mood, thinking and behavior. Examples of mental illness include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and addictive behaviors.

Many people have mental health concerns from time to time. But a mental health concern becomes a mental illness when ongoing signs and symptoms cause frequent stress and affect your ability to function. Mental illness can begin at any age, from childhood through later adult years, but most cases begin earlier

in life. About 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. has a mental illness in any given year. Access to mental health care is an important part of overall health care services. It's also important to understand the roles of different types of mental health care professionals to find the one that fits your needs. The best choice for your care will depend on your concern or condition; whether you need medications, counseling or both; and your health insurance coverage. Finding the right match is crucial to establishing a good relationship and getting the most out of your treatment.

Treatment depends on the type of mental illness and its severity. In many cases, a combination of treatments works best. If you have a mild mental illness with well-controlled symptoms, treatment from your primary health care clinician may be sufficient. However, often a team approach is appropriate to make sure all your psychiatric, medical and social needs are met.

Unfortunately, negative attitudes and beliefs toward people who have a mental health condition are common. Others' judgments almost always stem from a lack of understanding rather than

information based on facts. Learn more about the stigma of mental illness and what you can do to cope.

■ ■ ■
If you or someone you know are experiencing a mental health crisis, get help right away by taking one of these actions:

- Call your mental health specialist.
- Call a crisis hotline number. In the U.S., call or text 988 to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 24/7. Or use Lifeline Chat. Services are free and confidential. U.S. veterans or service members who are in crisis can call 988 and press "1" for the Veterans Crisis Line, text 838255 or chat online. The 988 Suicide &



A mental health concern becomes a mental illness when ongoing signs and symptoms cause frequent stress and affect your ability to function.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

- Crisis Lifeline in the U.S. also has a Spanish-language phone line at 888-628-9454.
- Call 911 or your local emergency number.
 - Seek help from your health care professional.
 - Reach out to a close friend or loved one.
 - Contact a minister, spiritual leader or someone else in your faith community.

An AI chatbot may be your next therapist. Will it actually help your mental health?

By Elisabeth Rosenthal
KFF HEALTH NEWS

In the past few years, 10,000 to 20,000 apps have stampeded into the mental health space, offering to "disrupt" traditional therapy. With the frenzy around AI innovations like ChatGPT, the claim that chatbots can provide mental health care is on the horizon.

The numbers explain why: Pandemic stresses led to millions more Americans seeking treatment. At the same time, there has long been a shortage of mental health professionals in the United States; more than half of all counties lack psychiatrists. Given the Affordable Care Act's mandate that insurers offer parity between mental and physical health coverage, there is a gaping chasm between demand and supply.

For entrepreneurs, that presents a market bonanza. At the South by Southwest conference in March, where health startups displayed their products, there was a near-religious conviction that AI could rebuild health care, offering apps and machines that could diagnose and treat all kinds of illnesses, replacing doctors and nurses.

Unfortunately, in the mental health space, evidence of effectiveness is lacking. Few of the many apps on the market have independent outcomes research showing they help; most haven't been scrutinized at all by the FDA. Though marketed to treat conditions such as anxiety, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and depression, or to predict sui-



DREAMSTIME/TNS

With the frenzy around AI innovations like ChatGPT, the claim that chatbots can provide mental health care is on the horizon.

cidal tendencies, many warn users (in small print) that they are "not intended to be medical, behavioral health or other healthcare service" or "not an FDA cleared product."

There are good reasons to be cautious in the face of this marketing juggernaut.

Decades ago, Joseph Weizenbaum, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and considered one of the fathers of artificial intelligence, predicted AI would never make a good therapist, though it could be made to sound like one. In fact, his original AI program, created in the 1960s, was a psychotherapist named ELIZA, which used word and pattern recognition combined with natural language programming to sound like a therapist.

- ■ ■
Woman: Well, my boyfriend made me come here.
ELIZA: Your boyfriend made you come here?
Woman: He says I'm depressed much of the time.

- ELIZA:** I am sorry to hear that you are depressed.
Woman: It's true. I am unhappy.
ELIZA: Do you think coming here will help you not to be unhappy?

■ ■ ■
Though hailed as an AI triumph, ELIZA's "success" terrified Weizenbaum, whom I once interviewed. He said students would interact with the machine as if Eliza were an actual therapist, when what he'd created was "a party trick," he said. He foresaw the evolution of far more sophisticated programs like ChatGPT. But "the experiences a computer might gain under such circumstances are not human experiences," he told me. "The computer will not, for example, experience loneliness in any sense that we understand it."

The same goes for anxiety or ecstasy, emotions so neurologically complex that scientists have not been able to pinpoint their neural origins. Can a chatbot achieve trans-

ference, the empathic flow between patient and doctor that is central to many types of therapy?

"The core tenet of medicine is that it's a relationship between human and human—and AI can't love," said Bon Ku, director of the Health Design Lab at Thomas Jefferson University and a pioneer in medical innovation. "I have a human therapist, and that will never be replaced by AI."

Ku said he'd like to see AI used instead to reduce practitioners' tasks like record-keeping and data entry to "free up more time for humans to connect."

While some mental health apps may ultimately prove worthy, there is evidence that some can do harm. One researcher noted that some users faulted these apps for their "scripted nature and lack of adaptability beyond textbook cases of mild anxiety and depression."

It may prove tempting for insurers to offer up apps and chatbots to meet the mental health parity requirement. After all, that would be a cheap and simple solution, compared with the difficulty of offering a panel of human therapists, especially since many take no insurance because they consider insurers' payments too low.

Perhaps seeing the flood of AI hitting the market, the Department of Labor announced last year it was ramping up efforts to ensure better insurer compliance with the mental health parity requirement.

Healthy Living

Beating gingivitis

Studies show that people with adequate vitamin D intake are the least likely to have bleeding gums.

Sardines and more

- **Sardines with bones** (pictured here), salmon, mackerel and cod liver oil are excellent sources of vitamin D
- **Vitamin-fortified dairy products, sunlight** are also good sources



Source:
American Journal
of Clinical
Nutrition, TNS
Photo Service

Life & Style

First full-size 3D scan of Titanic shows shipwreck in new light

LONDON (AP)—Deep-sea researchers have completed the first full-size digital scan of the Titanic, showing the entire wreck in unprecedented detail and clarity, the companies behind a new documentary on the wreck said Thursday.

Using two remotely operated submersibles, a team of researchers spent six weeks last summer in the North Atlantic mapping the whole shipwreck and the surrounding 3-mile debris field, where personal belongings of the ocean liner's passengers, such as shoes and watches, were scattered.

Richard Parkinson, founder and chief executive of deep-sea exploration firm Magellan, estimated that the resulting data—including 715,000 images—is 10 times larger than any underwater 3D model ever attempted before.

"It's an absolutely one-to-one digital copy, a 'twin,' of the Titanic in every detail," said Anthony Geffen, head of documentary maker Atlantic Productions.

The Titanic was on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York City when it hit an iceberg off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic on April 15, 1912. The luxury ocean liner sank within hours, killing about 1,500 people.

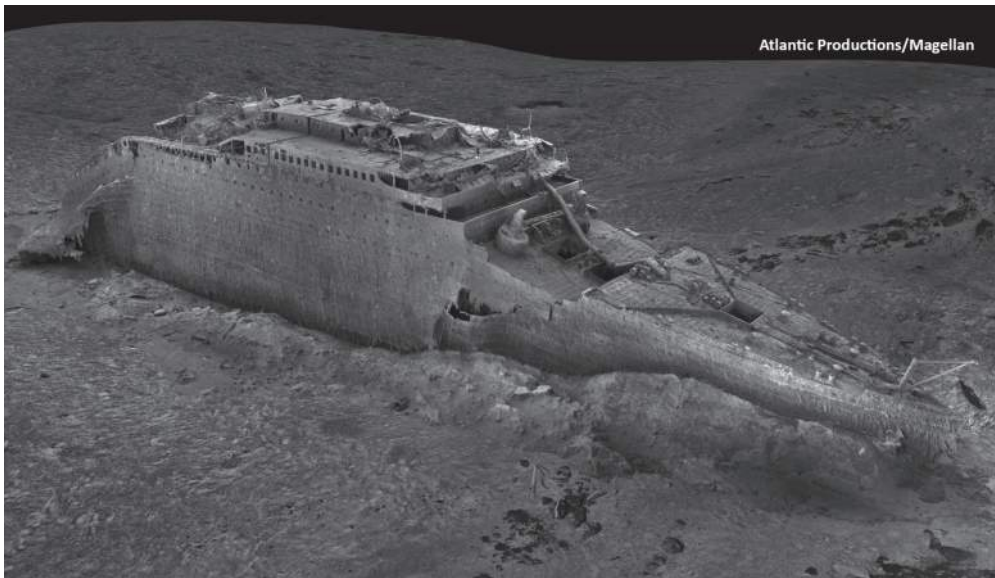
The wreck, discovered in 1985, lies some 12,500 feet (3,800 meters) under the sea, about 435 miles (700 kilometers) off the coast of Canada.

Geffen says previous images of the Titanic were often limited by low light levels, and only allowed viewers to see one area of the wreck at a time. He said the new photorealistic 3D model captures both the bow and stern section, which had separated upon sinking, in clear detail—including the serial number on the propeller.

Researchers have spent seven months rendering the large amount of data they gathered, and a documentary on the project is expected to come out next year. But beyond that, Geffen says he hopes the new technology will help researchers work out details of how the Titanic met its fate and allow people to interact with history in a fresh way.

"All our assumptions about how it sank, and a lot of the details of the Titanic, comes from speculation, because there is no model that you can reconstruct, or work exact distances," he said. "I'm excited because this quality of the scan will allow people in the future to walk through the Titanic themselves ... and see where the bridge was and everything else."

Parks Stephenson, a leading Titanic expert who was involved in the project, called the modelling a "gamechanger."



In this grab taken from a digital scan released by Atlantic/Magellan on Thursday, May 18, 2023, a view of the bow of the Titanic, in the Atlantic Ocean created using deep-sea mapping.

In Cannes, Harrison Ford bids adieu to Indiana Jones

CANNES, France (AP)—As the Cannes Film Festival crowd stood in rapturous applause, a visibly moved Harrison Ford stood on the stage, trying to keep his emotions in check.

The warmth of the audience and a clip reel that had just played had left Ford shaken.

"They say that when you're about to die, you see your life flash before your eyes," he said. "And I just saw my life flash before my eyes—a great part of my life, but not all of my life."

If last year's Cannes was partially defined by its tribute to "Top Gun Maverick" star Tom Cruise, this year's has belonged to Ford. This time, it's been far more poignant. Ford, 80, is retiring Indiana Jones, saying goodbye to the iconic swashbuckling archeologist more than 40 years after he first debuted, with fedora, whip and a modest snake phobia.

It's been a moving farewell tour—most of all for Ford, who has teared up frequently along the way. Speaking to reporters Friday, Ford was asked: Why give up Indy now?

"Is it not evident?" he replied with a characteristically sheepish grin. "I need to sit down and rest a little bit. I love to work. And I love this character. And I love what it brought into my life. That's all I can say."

"Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," the fifth Indiana Jones film, premiered Thursday night in Cannes, bringing an affecting coda to the franchise begun with 1981's "Raiders of the Lost Ark." While that film and the next three were all directed by Steven Spielberg from a story by George Lucas, Ford's final chapter is directed and co-written by James Mangold, the "Ford vs. Ferrari" filmmaker.

The gala, one of the most sought-after tickets at Cannes this year, also included an honorary Palme d'Or given to Ford. The next day, Ford was still struggling to articulate the experience of unveiling his final turn as Indiana Jones.

"It was indescribable. I can't even tell you," said Ford. "It's just extraordinary to see a kind of relic of your life as it passes by."

Following the disappointment of 2008's little-loved "Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull," the possibilities for a fifth film lingered for years and went through many iterations. Ford said he was intent on seeing a different, less youthful version of Jones. "Dial of Destiny" is set in the 1960s and finds Indiana as a retiring professor whose long-ago exploits no longer seem so special in the age of space exploration.



Ford

Supreme Court rules against Andy Warhol's foundation in a case about a portrait he made of Prince

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the 2016 publication of an Andy Warhol image of the singer Prince violated a photographer's copyright, a decision a dissenting justice said would stifle the creation of art.

The high court ruled 7-2 for photographer Lynn Goldsmith. "Lynn Goldsmith's original works, like those of other photographers, are entitled to copyright protection, even against famous artists," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in the opinion for the court.

In a dissent, Justice Elena Kagan warned that the decision would "stifle creativity of every sort" and suggested the majority needed to "go back to school" for an Art History 101 refresher course.

The case involved images Warhol created of Prince as part of a 1984 commission for Vanity Fair. Warhol used one of Goldsmith's photos as a starting point, a so-called artist reference, and Vanity Fair paid Goldsmith to license the photo. Warhol then created a series of images in his signature bright-colored and bold style.

Woman hopes dating leads to committed life partner

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 32-year-old woman. My 20s were spent in a serious long-term relationship. It was a lot of firsts for me. After we split, I took a couple of years to sow my wild oats and find out who I am as an individual.

I'm now looking for something more than "friends with benefits." However, the last few men I've met and gone on dates with, as wholesome as they seemed on dating sites (which have been my main source of meeting men), were really just looking for hookups. I want to find a life partner.

I have been chatting with a potentially great guy I met online, and we have a date scheduled. But I'm nervous that when we meet that he'll expect more than a date. I'm over that. Like I said, I want an actual relationship.

Can you give me some advice on what to do and say, or not, on a first or second date to help move it in the right direction without scaring the guy away?

PROCEEDING WITH CAUTION

DEAR PROCEEDING: Your dating profile should clearly state what you are looking for, including the fact that you are seeking a relationship and not a hookup. When you meet in person, relax and just be yourself. Show initiative by asking questions, getting answers, explaining how important honesty is to you and being interested in what he has to say. If you are hit on after that, rather than try to meet someone on the internet, put out the word among your friends, family and co-workers that you would like to meet someone nice with whom you could possibly build a future. Then pray.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Our son and his wife are professionals who reap the financial benefits of their chosen fields. Our daughter-in-law goes to her workplace most days, while our son works from home. As such, he is tasked with much of the cleaning, shopping and cooking. Our DIL has a large cadre of college friends and she's often away to sunny, exotic locales, posting pictures of herself along with others, all holding drinks in their hands.

Recently, she went on a trip with her "best friend," a gay man, posting poolside, restaurant and bar photos with both wearing big smiles. Meanwhile, our son is home working and taking care of their pets. This arrangement may work for them, but it doesn't sit well with us. Frankly, despite his insistence that things are fine, we are not convinced.

They are both in their prime reproductive years and, while they have no children yet, our DIL's mother recently moved nearby. My spouse and I realize that it is "their lives," but we remain concerned and confused about the viability of their relationship. Your insights would be most appreciated.

■■■

DEAR DAD: I'm sorry the dream you had of your son's marriage has not come to fruition. Comfort yourself with the thought that whatever their arrangement may be, it is working for them. Apart from that, MYOB and resist the urge to stir the pot, or risk creating turmoil and unhappiness where there isn't any.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DAD OF GREAT GUY IN NEW MEXICO

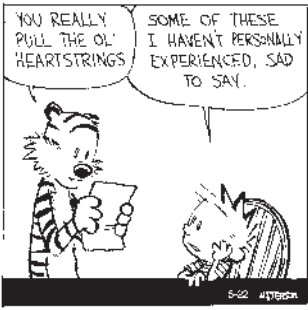
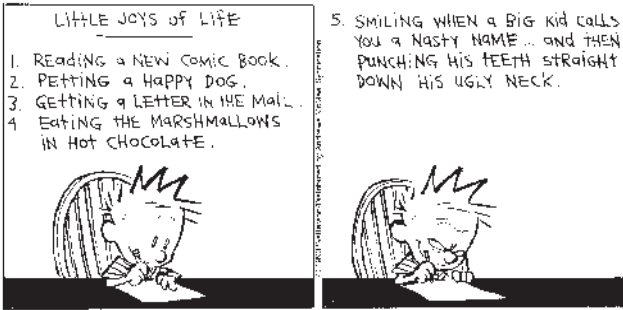
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



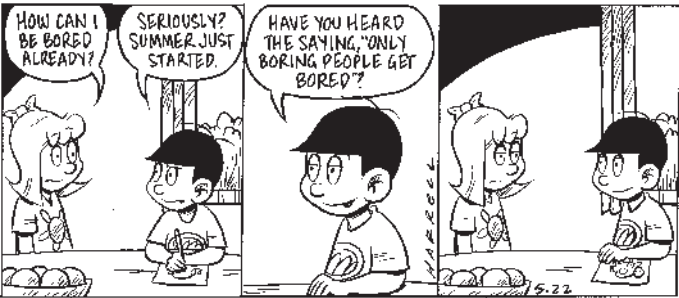
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



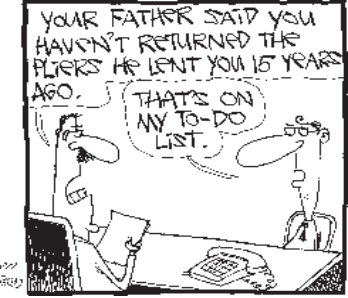
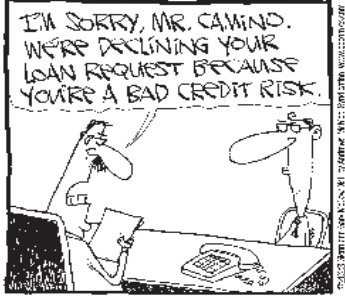
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Incite
5 Allen or Daly
8 Country's McEntire
12 Three digits after 1
14 "Hulk" star Bana
15 16th-century cartographer
16 London gallery
17 "Game of Thrones" airer
18 Boxed, as oranges
20 Fake name
23 503, in old Rome
24 Bloodline sharers
25 Midas product
28 Haw precursor
29 Lively French dance
30 Un-civilized

DOWN

1 Leg, in slang
2 Metal source
3 — Lingus
4 Russian villas
5 Dorothy's dog
6 Altar vow
7 Compassionate directly
8 Sell
9 Part of Q.E.D.
10 Take the bait
11 Scored 100 on
13 Urban fleet
19 Teeming

20 Bonfire residue
21 Stead
22 "Yeah, right"
23 Began eating
25 Incorrect term
26 Love god
27 Carry on
29 Pesky insect
31 Director Craven
33 Overacts
34 Alfred of "Chocolat"
36 Ms. Moreno
37 Works on a sound-track
38 "May It Be" singer
39 Poses
40 Museo display
43 Yoko from Tokyo
44 "Ben-Hur" studio
45 NFL's Manning
46 In medias

Last Friday's Answer 05/22

DOC FRAT NAPE
EAR AARE IMAY
CRATCHIT CANE
TEES LETTS
GREAT NAIL
LARK HONEYDEW
UKE MUTTS EVA
MEDDLERS OMEN
SINAI ELEC
KLUM AUTOGRAT
ISLA BRAN AGE
PAIS FLIF TAXI

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Novak Djokovic, 36; Apolo Ohno, 41; Ginnifer Goodwin, 45; Naomi Campbell, 53.

Happy Birthday: Distance yourself from expensive situations this year. Put your efforts into taking care of unfinished business and preparing and setting up for what's to come. How you use the past to catapult forward will make a difference. You are overdue for something new and exciting to come into your life. Be the one to start the process. Embrace the future with optimism. Your numbers are 3, 15, 19, 27, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Use your imagination to formulate a doable and cost-efficient plan. Be ready to barter, cut your overhead and do without things that aren't necessary to reach the target that is meaningful to you. Put your energy where it counts. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Check all your options before moving on something. Acting in haste will cause controversy. Offer help and be accommodating and patient, and you will help yourself and others make better decisions. Be the voice of reason. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stop and mull over what you need to know to advance. Take the initiative and put your energy into turning your intentions into actions. Gather information and discard what isn't necessary. Streamlining how you proceed will contribute to your success. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Change what you don't like. Be the force behind your desires. Take control and be blunt

about what you want to pursue, and you'll gain momentum. A lifestyle change will improve your health and emotional well-being. Don't let anger override production. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A steady pace will help you reach your destination unscathed. Refuse to give in to temptation. A debate will lead to dissatisfaction; do what you do best and prepare to move forward alone. Simplify your life and your ideas to ensure success. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pay attention to detail, listen to the experts and formulate a plan to help you incorporate positive change into your life and relationships. Self-improvement will lead to better health and confidence. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't beat yourself up over minor details. Put your energy into educational pursuits and home improvements. An enthusiastic approach to work will encourage others to pitch in and help. Try not to take on too much. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention to how you present yourself and your ideas to others. Don't be shy or feel pressured to put a team together. You have what it takes to get things done by yourself. An established plan will entice others to contribute. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider your objective before you put a plan in place. You may want to tweak your thoughts to maintain a budget that is within your means. Refuse to listen to someone with lofty ideas that aren't necessary to achieve your goal. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend time on domestic matters and relationships. How you treat others will determine how much help you receive. Offer guidelines, but don't tell others how to do their jobs. Being supportive will leave an impact. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a pass regarding joint ventures. You'll get far more accomplished if you work alone and use your skills and enthusiasm to finish what you start. Home improvements will make your life easier. Strive for perfection. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have the discipline to get things done and to run your way. Turn your environment into a place that eases stress and clears your head. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll gain support from those searching for the same results as you. *****



Birthday Baby: You are eager, insightful and innovative. You are expressive and encouraging.



☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2 7 6 4 9 8 3 1 5

5 9 4 3 6 1 8 7 2

7 4 2 6 1 3 5 8 9

9 5 1 8 7 4 2 3 6

3 6 8 2 5 9 7 4 1

4 1 7 9 3 5 6 2 8

8 2 9 7 4 6 1 5 3

6 3 5 1 8 2 4 9 7

Difficulty: ★ 5/22
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE OUACHITA MOUNTAINS

Solution: 7 letters

A E S D N A L H G I H I L L S
B R L K C A L B T S E R O F C
A U K E N V A L L E Y F K L E
G K F A V R V A A S P A M H N
R I V F N A T O P K O C S O I
I A C O A S T A L R E A I T C
C M N C Y L O I S T C A B H P S
U I K R O F A S O N A I P P S
L C C E L T T I L N U N R R U
T H H E S U E K R A Z O O I A
U I O K A N I A R R E T M N E
R A C E I H A B I T A T A G T
E O T P I N N A C L E D T S A
R O A L S A L A M A N D E R L
P S W I M A G A Z I N E M C P

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Agriculture, Arkansas, Black, Buffalo, Cabin, Cavanal, Cedar, Choctaw, Coastal, Creek, Crystals, Elevation, Elk, Forest, Fork, Habitat, Highlands, Hills, Hot Springs, Kiamichi, Lake, Little, Magazine, Maps, Metamorphism, Mount, Ozark, Pine, Pinnacle, Plateaus, Poteau, Prairie, Rocks, Salamander, Scenic, Swim, Terrain, Valley, Volcano
Last Friday's Answer: Sixties
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.OurWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Nuggets on brink of NBA Finals with win over Lakers in Game 3



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nikola Jokic was far from his usual dominant self while mired in foul trouble, and Jamal Murray cooled off after his scorching first

half. The Denver Nuggets' big early lead disappeared entirely in the fourth quarter of Game 3, and the Lakers' home crowd was in a frenzy.

The Nuggets weathered every setback and calmly, methodically took control with a poise worthy of champions.

With one more victory, they'll finally get the chance to play for their first rings.

Murray scored 37 points, Jokic added 24 points and eight assists and the Nuggets rolled to a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals with a 119-108 victory over Los Angeles on Saturday night.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half against his former team for the top-seeded Nuggets, who have never been this close to the NBA Finals in 47 years in the league. Denver is making its fifth straight playoff appearance, and the ultimate stage is now just one win away.

"I learn a lot about this team every time we play," Caldwell-Pope said. "We have that dog mentality where no matter if we're up, down,



Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray, right, passes over Los Angeles Lakers guard Dennis Schroder (17) in the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Final series Saturday, May 20, 2023, in Los Angeles.

we're going to continue to fight and play our game, and do it at a high level. We're going to continue to do that for the rest of these games."

Denver blew a 14-point lead in Game 3, but made a decisive 13-0 run in the fourth quarter to snap the Lakers' nine-game home winning streak since March 26, including seven straight victo-

ries since the regular season ended. The Nuggets excelled down the stretch with Murray and Jokic repeatedly running a two-man pick-and-roll game suggested by "Coach Jokic," according to coach Michael Malone.

"This group is capable of doing great things, and they believe," Malone said. "Belief is a very powerful thing."

No team has rallied from a 3-0 playoff series deficit in NBA history. Game 4 is Monday night in Los Angeles.

"I can't speak for the guys right now because I don't know what's going through all their minds, but I still (believe)," said LeBron James, who had 23 points, 12 assists and seven rebounds. "So it's time to go right back home

and start to refuel and start the treatment process and recovery process and get ready for Monday. My mindset is always locked in."

Anthony Davis had 28 points and 18 rebounds for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who hadn't lost three straight games since early February. Los Angeles' prolonged, desperate surge ever since the trade

deadline has finally run out of steam against the powerhouse Nuggets, who have won five consecutive playoff games.

"They've been at the top of the food chain for a reason, and have a plethora of guys that can hurt you, as was on full display tonight," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "But you know, circumstances are what they are. Difficult, but not impossible."

James hit three 3-pointers after starting the series 0 for 13 from distance, and Austin Reaves added 23 points and seven rebounds. But Rui Hachimura was the only other Lakers scorer to crack double figures with 13 points, and they couldn't counter the Nuggets' balanced effort down the stretch.

"Our backs have been against the wall (for) probably about the last two months, maybe more than that since the trade deadline," Reaves said. "Swinging, throwing punches to fight to get to this opportunity. ... We can either come out Monday and go home, or we can fight for another day. And with the group of guys that we've got, I know what that answer will be."

Jokic's streak of four consecutive triple-doubles ended in a fairly quiet game for the two-time MVP, who got his fourth foul in the third quarter. But Murray scored 17 points in a dynamic first quarter following his 23-point fourth quarter two nights ago, and he had 30 points by halftime of Game 3.

Major league-leading Rays get 3 home runs, beat Brewers 8-4



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—

Harold Ramirez, Yandy Diaz and Christian Bethancourt homered, and the major league-leading Tampa Bay Rays beat the Milwaukee Brewers 8-4 on Saturday.

Zach Eflin (6-1) allowed three runs, four hits and struck out eight for the Rays (34-14), who improved to 21-3 at home this season. Despite the great start, the Rays hold just a 3 1/2 game lead over Baltimore (30-16) in the tough AL East.

ORIOLES 6, BLUE JAYS 5, 10 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP)—Ryan Mountcastle scored the go-ahead run in the 10th inning when third baseman Matt Chapman's throw hit him in the back on Austin Hays' grounder, and Baltimore became the second team to reach 30 wins.

Ryan O'Hearn tied his career high with four RBIs, including a three-run homer in the eighth off Jordan Romano that tied the score 5-5. Cedric Mullins hit a solo homer as the Orioles (30-16) won for

the fourth time in five games.

RANGERS 11, ROCKIES 5

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Corey Seager had a two-run home run among three hits and Jon Gray won in his first start against his former club as Texas (28-17) is one win short of the franchise's best record through the first 45 games.

The Rangers, averaging a major league-best 6.20 runs per game, knocked out Kyle Freeland (4-5) after two innings — scoring four runs in each. Freeland allowed six earned runs and nine hits with no strikeouts.

YANKEES 7, REDS 4, 10 INNINGS

CINCINNATI (AP)—Aaron Judge had a go-ahead single in the 10th inning for his fourth hit of the game, and New York beat Cincinnati after cutting outfielder Aaron Hicks.

New York overcame a 4-1 deficit in a three-run fifth inning against Luke Weaver on Isiah Kiner-Falefa's homer, Judge's RBI double off the left-field wall and Anthony Rizzo's run-scoring single.

RED SOX 4, PADRES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Emmanuel Valdez hit a three-run homer and Chris Sale allowed just three hits — two of them home runs — in seven innings and Boston sent San Diego to its fourth straight loss and 11th in 13 games.

The 34-year-old Sale (4-2) had his fourth strong start and helped the Red Sox win their fourth straight game. The lefty allowed homers to Juan Soto and Fernando Tatis Jr. but otherwise shut down a superstar-studded offense with baseball's third-highest payroll that continues to look lost at the plate.

ASTROS 3, ATHLETICS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Yordan Alvarez hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning to propel Houston over Oakland.

The game was tied at 2-2 with no outs in the eighth when Alvarez sent a pitch from Richard Lovelady (0-2) into the seats in right field for his team-leading 10th homer this season.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, PIRATES 3

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pavin

Smith hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning to lift Arizona over Pittsburgh.

Smith's third homer of the season came off Robert Stephenson (0-2) and helped the Diamondbacks overcome a 3-2 deficit after Pirates ace Mitch Keller was pulled following six strong innings.

Ketel Marte also homered for Arizona, which won for the sixth time in its last eight games.

MARLINS 1, GIANTS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Braxton Garrett and three relievers combined on a three-hitter, and Miami scored an unearned run in the eighth inning on a Jon Berti single to beat San Francisco.

Miami scored in the eighth against Tyler Rogers (0-4). Garrett Hampson reached on third baseman J.D. Davis's fielding error, Xavier Edwards sacrificed and Berti followed with a single past first baseman LaMonte Wade Jr.

PHILLIES 12, CUBS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Aaron Nola (4-3) struck out 10 in seven sharp innings, Kyle

Schwarber hit a grand slam and Philadelphia snapped a five-game losing streak.

Kody Clemens also went deep in Philadelphia's six-run first inning, and Bryce Harper singled, doubled, walked twice and had an RBI for the defending NL champs. The Phillies had scored a total of 11 runs in losing seven in a row to the Cubs before eclipsing that just in Saturday's outburst.

NATIONALS 5, TIGERS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Patrick Corbin won consecutive starts for the first time since last summer and Lane Thomas had a go-ahead, two-run single in the fifth inning that stopped Washington's four-game losing streak.

Corbin (3-5) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings against the Tigers, the only big league team he had never faced. He struck out three, reaching 1,500 in his career when he fanned Jonathan Scoop in the sixth.

WHITE SOX 5, ROYALS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Jake Burger hit a three-run double in the sixth inning, helping Lucas Giolito and Chicago beat Kansas City.

Yoán Moncada had two RBIs as Chicago won for the fourth time in five games. Andrew Benintendi and Luis Robert Jr. each scored two runs.

CARDINALS 6, DODGERS 5

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Gorman hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer (1-1) off Victor González in the eighth following an intentional walk to Paul Goldschmidt.

Giovany Gallegos relieved Ryan Helsley (2-2) in a two-run ninth and threw a called third strike past Mookie Betts to strand the potential tying run on second and get his fourth save.

MARINERS 7, BRAVES 3

ATLANTA (AP)—Logan Gilbert (2-2) gave up Matt Olson's two-run homer in the first inning, then retired 15 consecutive hitters.

Eugenio Suárez hit a two-run homer for the Mariners and J.P. Crawford had two hits, including a run-scoring single in a three-run fourth. Taylor Trammell hit an RBI single in the fourth against Michael Tonkin (3-2).

Jim Brown, all-time NFL great and social activist, dead at 87

By TOM WITHERS
AP SPORTS WRITER



CLEVELAND (AP)—Jim Brown was virtually unstoppable in every arena.

Whether on the field, as a Hollywood film hero or civil rights advocate, Brown was a force.

One of the greatest players in NFL history, Brown, who retired at the peak of his playing career to pursue acting and remained in the public spotlight as an activist — and due to off-field transgressions that included allegations of violence against women — has died. He was 87.

A spokeswoman for Brown's family said he died peacefully in his Los Angeles home on Thursday night with his wife, Monique, by his side.

"To the world, he was an activist, actor, and football star," Monique Brown wrote in an Instagram post. "To our family, he was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Our hearts are broken."

One of pro football's first superstars, Brown was a wrecking ball while leading the league in rushing for eight of his nine seasons with the Cleveland Browns. He never missed a game, playing in 118 straight before his sudden retirement in 1965 — after being named Most Valuable Player.

Brown led the Browns to their last championship in 1964 before quitting football in his prime at age 30 to make movies. He appeared in more than 30 films, including "Any Given Sunday" and "The Dirty Dozen."

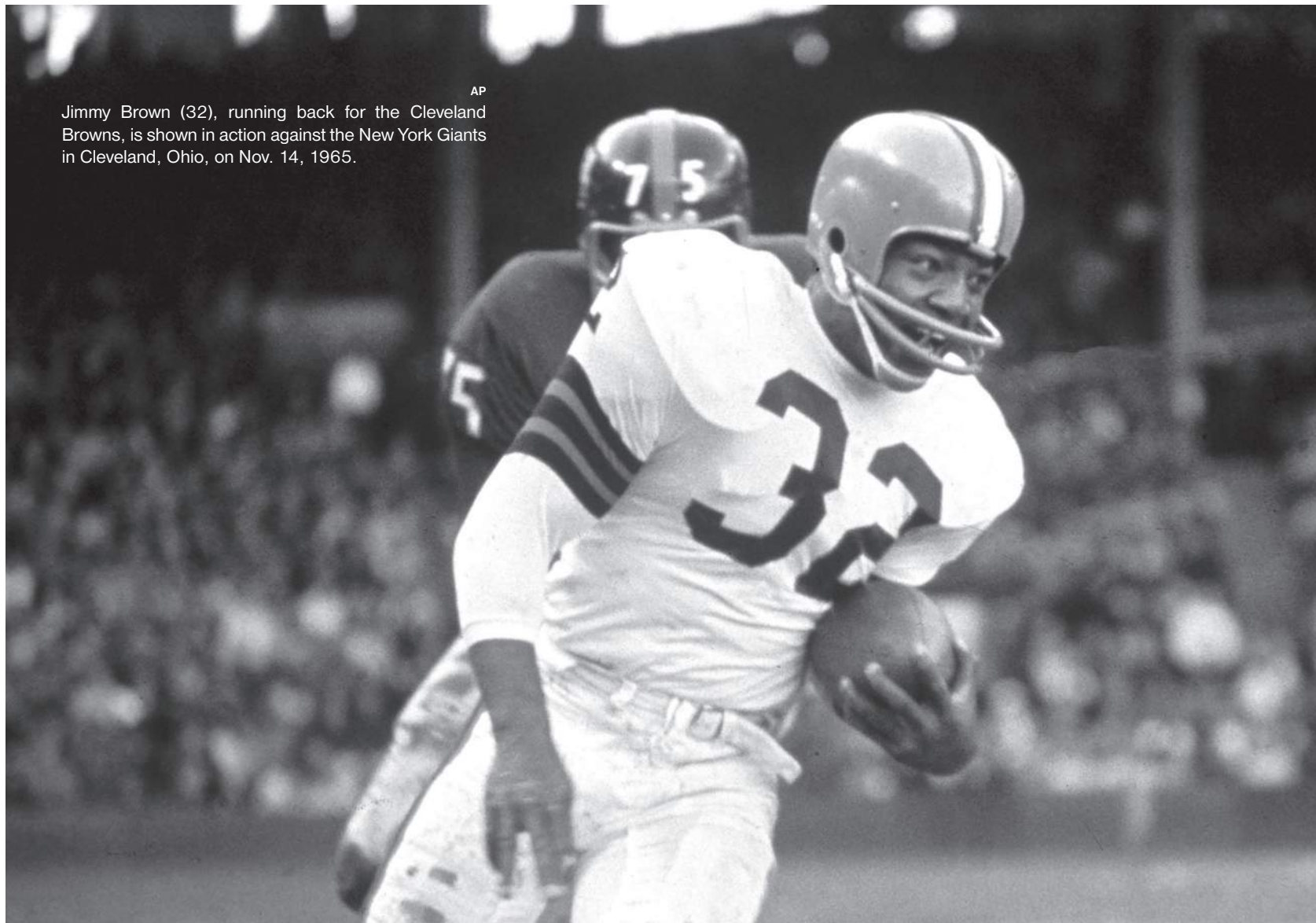
A powerful runner with speed and endurance, Brown's arrival sparked the game's burgeoning popularity on television and he remained an indomitable figure well after his playing days ended.

Brown was also a champion for Black Americans and used his platform and voice to fight for equality.

"I hope every Black athlete takes the time to educate themselves about this incredible man and what he did to change all of our lives," NBA star LeBron James said. "We all stand on your shoulders Jim Brown. If you grew up in Northeast Ohio and were Black, Jim Brown was a God."

In June 1967, Brown organized "The Cleveland Summit," a meeting of the nation's top Black athletes, including Bill Russell and Lew Alcindor, who later became Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, to support boxer Muhammad Ali's fight against serving in Vietnam.

In later years, he worked



AP
Jimmy Brown (32), running back for the Cleveland Browns, is shown in action against the New York Giants in Cleveland, Ohio, on Nov. 14, 1965.

to curb gang violence in LA and in 1988 founded Ameri-Can, a program to help disadvantaged inner-city youth and ex-convicts.

On the field, there was no one like Brown, who would blast through would-be tacklers, refusing to let one man take him down before sprinting away from linebackers and defensive backs. He was also famous for using a stiff arm to shed defenders in the open field or push them away like they were rag dolls.

Indeed, Brown was unlike any back before him, and some feel there has never been anyone better than Cleveland's No. 32. At 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, he was relentless, fighting for every yard, dragging multiple defenders along or finding holes where none seemed to exist.

After Brown was tackled, he'd slowly rise and walk even more slowly back to the huddle — then dominate the defense when he got the ball again.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell offered his condolences on behalf of the league.

"Jim Brown was a gifted athlete — one of the most dominant players to ever step on any athletic field — but also a cultural figure who helped promote change," Goodell said. "During his nine-year NFL career, which coincided with the civil rights movement here at home, he became a forerunner and role model for athletes being involved in social initiatives outside their sport."

Off the field, Brown was a contentious, complicated figure.

While he had a soft spot for those in need, he also was arrested a half-dozen times, mostly on charges of hitting women.

In June 1999, Brown's wife called 911, saying Brown had smashed her car with a shovel and threatened to kill her. During the trial, Monique Brown recanted. Jim Brown was acquitted of a charge of domestic threats but convicted of misdemeanor vandalism. A Los Angeles judge sentenced Brown to six months in jail when he refused to attend domestic violence counseling.

He also feuded with Browns coach Paul Brown and later with the team's management, although he played his entire career with Cleveland.

When his playing days ended, Brown set off for Hollywood and eventually settled there. Brown advised Cleveland coach Blanton Collier of his retirement while the team was in training camp and he was on the set of "The Dirty Dozen" in England.

Among his films were "100 Rifles," "Mars Attacks!" Spike Lee's "He Got Game," Oliver Stone's "Any Given Sunday," and "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka," which parodied the blaxploitation genre. In 2002, Brown was the subject of Lee's HBO documentary "Jim Brown: All-American."

In recent years, Brown's relationship with the Browns was inconsistent. He served

as an adviser to owner Randy Lerner and was hired to counsel the team's younger players. However, in 2010, Brown parted ways with the team after having his role reduced by incoming team president Mike Holmgren. Brown felt slighted by the perceived demotion — when the club unveiled a "Ring of Honor" inside its downtown stadium, Brown didn't attend the ceremony in protest.

The Browns erected a statue of Brown outside their stadium in 2016.

Brown made only a few public appearances in recent years. In February, he attended the NFL Honors ceremony when the league announced it had renamed its league rushing title as The Jim Brown Award.

Brown was an eight-time All-Pro and went to the Pro Bowl in each of his nine years in the league. When he retired, he held the league's records for yards (12,312) and touchdowns (126).

"He told me, 'Make sure when anyone tackles you he remembers how much it hurts,'" said Hall of Fame tight end John Mackey. "He lived by that philosophy and I always followed that advice."

Born on Feb. 17, 1936, in St. Simons Island, Georgia, Brown was a multisport star at Manhasset High School on Long Island. He averaged 14.9 yards per carry in football and once scored 55 points in a game.

A two-sport star at Syracuse

— some say he is the best lacrosse player in NCAA history — Brown endured countless racist taunts while playing at the virtually all-white school at the time. Still, he was an All-American in both sports and lettered in basketball.

Brown was the sixth overall pick of the 1957 draft, joining a team that routinely played for the title. He was the Offensive Rookie of the Year that season.

Running behind an offensive line featuring Hall of Fame tackles Lou Groza and Mike McCormack, Brown set a league mark with 1,527 yards and scored 17 TDs on his way to the league's Most Outstanding Player award — a precursor to the MVP — in 1958. Over the next three seasons, he never ran for less than 1,257 yards before finishing with 996 in 1962.

He led the NFL in rushing eight times, gaining a career-best 1,863 yards in 1963. He averaged 104 yards per game, scored 106 rushing touchdowns and averaged an astounding 5.2 yards per carry. A dangerous receiver as well, Brown finished with 262 catches for 2,499 yards and another 20 TDs.

"I've said many times, and I will always say, Jim Brown is the best," Hall of Fame running back Gale Sayers once said, "and he will still be the best long after all his records are broken."

Brown's No. 32 was retired by the Browns in '71, the

same year he entered the Hall of Fame. But he rarely visited Cleveland during the 1970s and '80s. He and Cleveland owner Art Modell were at odds over his sudden retirement; the two later patched up their differences and remained friends.

Brown supported Modell's decision to move Cleveland's franchise to Baltimore in 1995. It was both a reflection of his loyalty to Modell and another sign of his fierce independence. Brown was one of the few former Browns players not angry with Modell for moving the team.

Many modern players couldn't appreciate Brown or his impact on American sports.

"They have grown up in a different era," former Browns coach Romeo Crennel said. "He's one of the greatest players in NFL history and what he was able to accomplish in his time was tremendous. I don't know that anybody could do what he did, the way he did it, under the circumstances that he had to operate and the things that he had to endure."

"And for him to go out on top, that's something that not many guys are able to appreciate either."

Brown is survived by his wife and son, Aris; daughter, Morgan, son, Jim Jr.; daughter, Kimberly; son, Kevin; daughter, Shellee; and daughter, Kim. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Karen Ward.

Falcons, Junior Nationals edge foes in SBL

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Falcons and Junior Nationals edged their foes in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League during their games last Wednesday and Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Falcons held the Brewers to just one run in their 9-1 game last Wednesday, while the youngsters of the Junior Nationals team mercy ruled the Survivors, 14-2.

It was a quiet offensive night for the Brew Crew with their only run made in the first inning after a base hit by Ver-lance Secharmidal brought in Diego Camacho.

Their lineup lasted until the fifth batter before the third out, but throughout the rest of the game, Falcons' pitching duo of J.J. Lifofoi and Ricky Ri-ungel allowed only one other hit to Reed Teregeyo.

Meanwhile, the Falcons were soaring high and made two runs in the first inning by



LEIGH GASES

Junior Nationals player Kazu Dela Cruz is seen in this file photo during one of their games in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

a single from Giovanni Mira.

The bottom of the lineup in the second inning produced similar results as Jordan Suel and Joel Noirta hit back to back singles and came home after a go ahead triple by Arby Yaguel.

Three more runs came in the third as Brewers' pitching fell apart and walked four batters in that inning alone. Falcons' bats simmered down in the fourth and last inning as they brought in just two more runs,

but it was more than enough to get the victory as the Brewers knocked in just one.

The Survivors perished in the hands of the Junior Nationals and the game was shortened to only five innings.

The Junior Nationals had a wild second inning as they put up 10 after their three-run second inning.

It was thanks to the Survivors' lackluster pitching that allowed four Junior National batters to walk, allowed five

base hits, one double, walked one more batter, and hit one.

Albert Adriano made the double and had two RBIs in the game. He eventually scored home after he took third base on a passed ball. The inning mercifully ended when the third out was made on a fly ball.

At this point, the Survivors brought in their first run after the first inning. However, they went runless in the second and third despite getting on base and finally managed to get one more run in the fourth inning.

The game ended early as the Junior Nationals put up one more run in the fourth, while the Survivors could not put up any in their last at bat.

In the end, Junior National pitchers Jon Diaz and Benji Palacios dominated the Survivors as they collectively struck out nine Survivors.

Results of last Friday's and last Thursday's game will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

McDonald's sponsors Chamber 14th Annual Golf Tournament



McDonald's of Guam and Saipan is sponsoring the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 14th Annual Golf Tournament after donating \$250 worth of Arch Cards as raffle prizes.

McDonald's Arch Cards are the perfect gift cards for friends and families that you can buy and use at any McDonald's location. McDonald's is proud to sponsor SCC's golf tournament, an annual fundraising event that provides financial support for the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program, which awards local students seeking higher education to better contribute to our community.

"We're happy to support the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in their upcoming Annual Golf Tournament. This event is special because the proceeds directly benefit students and aid them in further-

ing their education through scholarship. Through the years, we've seen many students whose lives have changed through opportunities that the Saipan Chamber provides and we're grateful to be a part of that," said Mable Glenn, representative for McDonald's of Saipan.

Saipan Chamber's 14th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 27, 2023, playing a two-person scramble format at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned by Jose & Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam and Saipan have served the local communities for over 50 years on Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the island's largest employers. (PR)

VELORIA

From Page 20

tors Authority has this race again and was actually supposed to join the MVA Half Marathon, but it was unfortunately canceled.

For Miller's part, she said "at the beginning of the race, I felt very heavy and was not comfortable, but I tried to keep the pace and watch the front runners all the way. My time was not very good but I was happy to get first place."

"It was also nice to see the costume category. Their ideas

were great! I enjoyed it too. Thank you for the MVA and all the volunteers. I hope more tourists will come back," she said.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said that the annual event was organized by their team to get "the industry partners, families, and community members active and engaged with the tourism industry."

With MVA's slogan "Tourism is everybody's business," these types of events try to bring the community together to work out, get some exercise, and it's all in honor of May being Tourism Month," he said.

There were 116 participants, which Concepcion said was a good amount and looks forward to growing it in the years to come.

Concepcion thanked their partners Run Saipan, their partners in the tourism industry, stakeholders, and members of the community who have donated and volunteered, and have provided support.

He also invites the community to make their way down to the Garapan Fishing Base for the Taste of the Marianas starting Saturday, June 3, and will continue every Saturday of June.

A'S CAR

From Page 20

Ronald Rueda was again the lone bright spot for RNV Construction as he led the team with 23 markers.

In the second game, Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific ran roughshod over fifth seed JSN Enterprises, 95-62.

After Blue Eagle surprised JSN by storming out to a 23-8 lead after the first 10 minutes of play, the game settled down and saw the latter take a 36-30 lead at halftime.

Blue Eagle, however, fired on all cylinders come the third quarter to take a 58-46 advantage heading into the final stanza and it was all she wrote as the victors unloaded a 37-

16 run in the fourth and never looked back.

Andrew Ashburn led Blue Eagle with 22 points, while Jet Jandoc and Deshawn Reign added 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Jun Tabora was like the Lone Ranger for JSN Enterprise as he fired 28 points in the loss.

Games last Saturday between Pepoy's Restaurant Cafe and Ol'Aces and Blue Haus and Double A Corp. were rained out. The Ol'Aces-Pepoy's matchup managed to complete the first three quarters before the clouds opened up.

First Game

A's Car Air Conditioning
76 – Montano 28, De Guzman 16, Bisana 11, Pangelinan 6,

Fundador 4, R. Tibayan 3, D. Tibayan 2, Manabat 2, Tobias 2, Rosario 2.

RNV Construction 62 – R. Rueda 23, Mortos 11, Udaundo 7, Dionisio 5, Jumaquio 4, Bacuyag 2, Tagle 2, J. Rueda 2, Alfonso 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-7, 41-24, 53-39, 76-62.

Second Game

Blue Eagles/Royal Pacific 95 – Ashburn 22, Jandoc 14, Reign 12, Cabanas 11, Morales 9, Javier 9, Villarin 6, Rotap 5, Estolas 4, Mendiola 3.

JSN Enterprises 62 – Tabora 28, Singca 10, Wesley 9, Joyner 5, Ocampo 4, Samson 3, Zapata 2, Agbanlog 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-8, 36-30, 58-46, 95-62.

FIRST

From Page 20

boys high school soccer as MHS claimed the title.

After the December holiday break, the sports season kicked off again in mid January with GCA claiming the MS girls volleyball championship; followed by co-ed high school badminton which MHS took the gold in;

then co-ed va'a, which Saipan Southern High School won first in the boys and co-ed and MHS won first in the girls division; MHS won the girls high school basketball season; middle school girls went at it in soccer with SIS taking home the title; then co-ed elementary grass volleyball was won by KobES; the boys middle school volleyball kicked off and was won by SIS; in the boys high school basketball season, MHS took home first place; the boys high school volleyball season kicked

off with MHS going for the repeat; all schools athletics kicked off in the elementary (SIS and KobES), middle school (DMS), and high school (ACS); then, the high school girls took to the pitch and MHS grabbed first place; and finally, the 2022-2023 sports season ended just this month with boys middle school basketball as FMS took home the gold.

With the bulk of games played at the MHS Gymnasium, the airconditioning was finally restored just last November after years of playing in the sweltering heat. The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was also fully functional as of early this year, allowing some games to be played there too.

The only sports program that did not kick off this school year was the girls high school fastpitch softball, but will hopefully find and work with partners to hopefully get it online next school year.

Gross said, "We're really just ecstatic on the end of PSS for having been able to work with our partners and establish every program and the amount of Tinian and Rota exposure that we've had. We're just really pleased with the private schools and the public schools; it's been a fantastic year for everybody kind of coming back to sport."

As for what the next school year has in store, he said, "I think that we've established a baseline this year that we're really excited moving into next school year knowing that I think we've really just changed kind of the way everybody's taken on this stuff. I just don't think it's going to be as big a struggle to get the kids and the schools' support moving forward. It's going to be a great opportunity next year again to really pump up the jam if we can."

He said that PSS has one more year of "stable" funding under the American Rescue

Plan Act, or ARPA. "School year '23-'24 is going to be pivotal due to economic stresses and different things."

But even with that, he said "We're still going to be here, we're still going to offer the program—we just may have to think a little bit outside of the box and make sure that we can continue doing what we're doing, make sure that Tinian and Rota are always an integral part of the work that we're doing. We want to make sure that we never scale back. We always want to think about growing bigger and having not necessarily more sports to offer, but more opportunities per sport for more of our student body to take part in."

With successfully pulling off the full 2022-2023 sports season, Gross said "The success of athletic programs is having the Public School System's full support and the leadership of PSS all the way

down to our principals at that level have done an incredible job of stepping up and so we thank them."

"But most importantly, the core in the heart of what we do is the students coming out and participating, the coaches willing to do it—they're certainly not compensated very well for their time, but these experiences that these kids get, I think at the root of it, this is how we create healthy communities. It's making sure that kids throughout the islands have the opportunity to participate in play, learn the rules, and the ins and outs, learn how to win and lose with dignity. But these experiences are what creates a healthy community because in the end, all of these experiences, you know, bring everybody to the plate to enjoy the game. But when they're 18 and graduating from the Public School System and the private schools, ideally they're

not walking away from sport. They're either given back as coaches and as officials and all the different layers that it takes to really produce these programs. And so I think that it's a staple to a healthy community, seeing that you have grassroots programs such as PSS athletic programs."

"And from there, we work with the Northern Marianas Sports Association and all of its membership. We're always looking to expand the sports that we offer, but we need to know that those sports that want to come online have the capacity to support themselves as we can do a lot to help guide, but we can't be the ones that are coaching it and reffing it... so in the end, all of the sponsors that helped us out throughout the year and the federations—there's a bunch there to mention, but thank you to everybody for making it a fantastic and successful year," he said.



Nuggets on brink of NBA Finals with win over Lakers in Game 3.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Falcons, Junior Nationals edge foes in SBL.

PAGE 19



20 MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Veloria, Miller top Marianas Tourism Month 5K



Miller



Veloria

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The usual suspects—Sildrey Veloria and Akiko Miller—topped the competitive race of the Marianas Tourism Month 5K Fun Run last Saturday morning that began and ended at the Garapan Fishing Base.

In the men's division, Veloria clocked first overall at 19:41; Joel Phaii was second with 20:28; and third was Chad Taflinger with 21:54.

Miller came in first for the women's division in 20:55; Noriko Jim was second at 22:32; and Adalee Taflinger

was third with 23:48.

There was also a "Best Tourist Costume" contest for runners in costumes, and the awards went to Theodore and Michael Rodgers who won \$300 for their airplane costume; the Taflinger family received \$200 for their beach

day getup and third place went to Mr. and Ms. Iwamoto who received \$100 for their bikini-shirt costumes.

For Veloria who ran sans costume, he said "the race was a lot of fun. I thought the race was going to start at 6:30am and I came a little too early."

When asked why he didn't run with a tourist costume, he said "I was supposed to. I was supposed to build an airplane

like the [Rodgers] brothers, but I just said that I'll let them have that costume and just race without one."

On his time, he said that he wanted to come in at 19:30, but said that "you'll really never know with the weather, the people you're racing with—it can make a difference."

He said he will definitely join when the Marianas Visi-
See VELORIA on Page 19



Participants of the Marianas Tourism 5K Fun Run are seen in the starting line before the start of the race last Saturday morning at the Garapan Fishing Base.

LEIGH GASES

A's Car Air Conditioning Blue Eagle top playoff foes

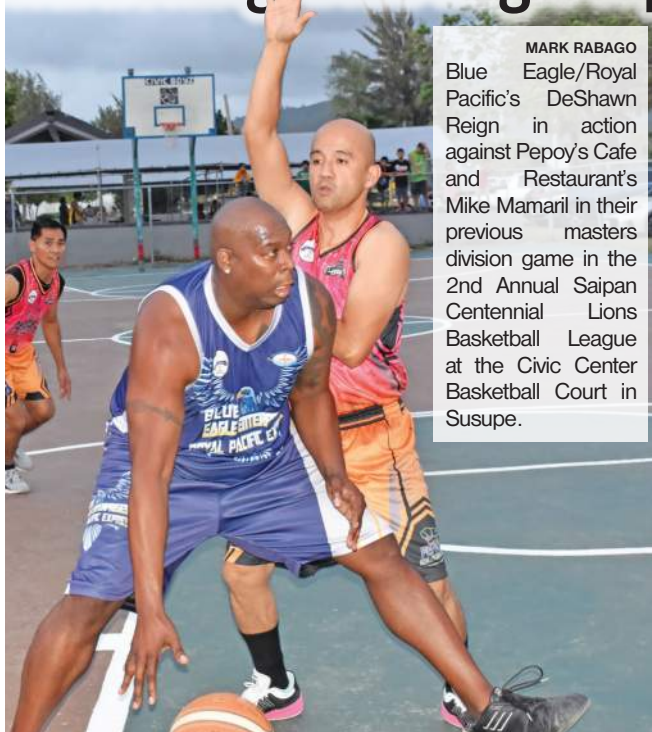
By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Top seed A's Car Air Conditioning and fourth seed Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific are moving on in the playoffs of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League after vanquishing separate opponents last Friday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

In the first game, A's Car Air Conditioning made quick work of doormat team RNV Construction, 76-62, as the postseason of the masters division started.

The top seed had a jackrabbit start and led large after the opening quarter, 20-7.



MARK RABAGO
Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific's DeShawn Reign in action against Pepoy's Cafe and Restaurant's Mike Mamaril in their previous masters division game in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

A's Car Air Conditioning continued to freeze their opponents in the second quarter to take a 41-24 spread at the half.

RNV Construction woke up a little in the second half and managed to trim their deficit to just 14 points, 53-39, heading into the payoff period.

A's Car Air Conditioning then cashed in the fourth period, matching RNV Construction point for point to cruise to the anticlimactic 76-62 victory.

Sniper Bernard Montano shone all game long for A's Car Air Conditioning and finished with a game-high 28 points, while big man Jorge De Guzman added 16 points in support,

See A'S CAR on Page 19

'First fully completed school year of sports programming'

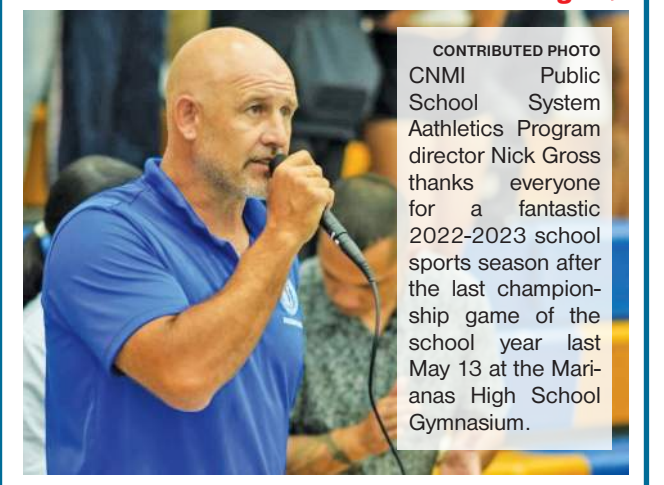
By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System has just concluded a full schedule of the interscholastic sports 2022-2023 season and according to PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross during the last championship game of the season, that since PSS has had the athletics program, it's the first fully completed school year of sports programming.

The season started last September with girls high school volleyball won by Grace Christian Academy; next was middle school girls basketball as Francisco M.

Sablan Middle School took home the championship; followed by all schools cross country split between Agape Christian School and Saipan International School; middle school boys took to the pitch with Tanapag Middle School bagging first place; then it was middle school co-ed badminton with SIS defending their title; then it was the co-ed elementary school soccer with William S. Reyes Elementary School claiming the championships; co-ed elementary school hoops was next with Koblerville Elementary School defending their title; and 2022 wrapped up with

See FIRST on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross thanks everyone for a fantastic 2022-2023 school sports season after the last championship game of the school year last May 13 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.